Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Final Flight

The space shuttle passes into history after a last visit to the International Space Station.

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Grown Up

Harry Potter fans reflect on growing up with Harry and the end of the saga.

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'Captain America'

"Captain America" star Chris Evans introduces the latest Marvel film to a Comic-Con crowd.

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CHC needs $500K for critical needs

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Fitial administration and the Legislature are eyeing unobligated funds from the Commonwealth Development Authority to pay for a portion of the estimated $2.9 million that the Commonwealth Health Center owes its vendors.

Inos

» $1M from bond interests proposed to pay off hospital arrears

In a meeting yesterday attended by both House and Senate members as well as officials from the departments of Public Health and Finance at the Senate chamber, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said that acting governor Eloy S. Inos can reprogram $1 million from CDA interest bonds to help CHC pay off its vendors.

Inos last Thursday declared a state of emergency at CHC after a severe cash shortage resulted in non-payment to vendors of pharmaceutical, medical, dialysis, and food supplies.

The availability of the $1 million in CDA monies for CHC was confirmed yesterday afternoon by press secretary Angel

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Tebuteb blasts 'unofficial' GOP meeting

» Doesn't recognize Juan N. Babauta as president

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lifelong, card-carrying Republican Party member Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) does not recognize newly elected CNMI GOP president Juan N. Babauta and labeled as unofficial the general membership meeting and subsequent election held last July 8 at the Garapan Central Park.

In a letter to former local Republican Party president Juan I. Tenorio, which the incumbent congressman still addressed as GOP president, Tebuteb said he was "disheartened to learn that the existing GOP bylaws and policies were blatantly disregarded during the recent 'unofficial' and 'out of order' GOP meeting, which was supposedly installed a new Republican Party leadership."

He pointed out that Article 5 Section 13 of the GOP bylaws states that "No person may be endorsed for an appointed office, including

Tebuteb

appointment to a vacancy in an elective office by the Republican Party who is not a registered Republican, or who has, within twelve (12) months prior to such endorsement: 1. Been a member of any political party; 2. Resigned or forfeited his/her membership in the Republican Party."

Tebuteb added that Article

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AP

In this July 5, 2011 photo provided by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Keevin Minami, Plant Quarantine Inspector, HDOA, left and Dwain Uyeda, Reptile Supervisor, Honolulu Zoo, right, examine a 9-foot boa constrictor in Honolulu.

Snakes threaten Hawaii's fragile island ecosystem

By MARK NIESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii has been largely successful in preventing snakes from entering the island paradise over the years and avoiding the grave danger they present to tropical birds, colorful plants and the vibrant environment that draws millions of tourists to the state each year.

But the recent capture of escaped pet snakes—illegal in Hawaii—and the infestation of the U.S. island of Guam by brown tree snakes, which could easily make it here via cargo ship, have alarmed wildlife and agriculture officials.

Without any natural predators, authorities say it wouldn't take much for snakes to take root and multiply, potentially killing off endangered birds and flowers that make the islands special. Hawaii, home to more endangered species per square kilometer than anywhere else in the world, could potentially face the same fate as Guam, where brown tree snakes overran the island following World War II and wiped most birds from the skies.

"It has a high potential to be devastat-

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Delegation to get to the bottom of Ayuyu termination. PAGE 2
15 Chuuk mariners found marooned on island. PAGE 5

Local

Rota delegation to get to the bottom of Ayuyu termination

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Rota legislative delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu said yesterday that they will get to the bottom of the decision by the municipality's acting mayor to fire the Rota Health Center's resident director to determine if the action is for the best interest of the island's residents.

Sen. Ayuyu said they also want to make sure that Crispin Ayuyu's termination did not violate his constitutional rights.

Acting mayor Arvin Ogo fired Rota Health Center resident director Crispin Ayuyu without cause on Tuesday and named Dr. James Toskas to the position in an acting capacity.

Upon learning about the termination of Crispin Ayuyu, Sen. Ayuyu said he tried to contact both the acting mayor and Mayor Melchor Mendiola himself, to no avail. Mendiola is currently on leave.

Sen. Ayuyu said they also failed to get any word from Crispin Ayuyu about the matter.

Sen. Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune* that the delegation will set an immediate meeting with Mendiola as soon as he returns, along with the Rota Municipal Council, which confirms the appointment of resident directors.

"We tried to contact the mayor to get some explanation but were unable to talk to him. I don't know if he's off island or on island but as soon as he comes back we will meet with him to understand what's really happening at the center," said Ayuyu, adding that the delegation has a right to be informed about issues at the municipality's level.

The delegation chairman could not immediately say if Crispin Ayuyu's termination has had any impact on the operation of the center. He pointed out that in these times of economic hardship, "more collaboration and team work" should be observed from all government agencies such as the delegation and the municipalities.

Saipan Tribune learned that Sen. Ayuyu last spoke to Crispin Ayuyu two weeks ago, during which the delegation chairman informed the resident director about the recommendation to Mendiola to reprogram some funds to pay for the unpaid salaries of nurses at the health center. "That was the last communication I had with the resident director," he said.

He said the delegation had recommended to Mendiola to reprogram $60,000 from the landfill project to keep the services of the nurses at the center. The mayor, based on the law that appropriated funds for the landfill project, is the expenditure authority and has to submit a request to Office of Management and Budget.

Yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan said the "administration has approved the reprogramming of some $30,000 per the request for the Mayor of Rota to make outstanding payments to the nurses there. While the request was for $60,000 in funds, OMB has only identified half of that amount as funds available for reprogramming."

Last Thursday, acting governor Eloy Inos placed the Commonwealth Health Center and centers in Rota and Tinian under state of emergency as a result of shortfalls in budget and services.

Man gets 1 year for stealing $60.91

A man accused of stealing and forging a Northern Marianas College check amounting to $60.91 was sentenced to a year in prison.

Joshua Indalecio Martin, 22, will be released from the Department of Corrections on April 21, 2012. He will then be placed on three years of probation.

Martin will be required to pay a $300 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $300 probation fee. He was also ordered to pay $60.91 in restitution to the victim, Hedwig A. Hofschneider, and write a letter of apology to him.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja barred Martin from having any contact with Hofschneider and his family during the probationary period.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the defendant with theft and forgery. Martin pleaded guilty to theft as part of a plea deal. The forgery charge was dropped.

Martin was arrested with another man in April after Hofschneider helped police in the investigation.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that on April 7, 2011, Hofschneider reported to police about a burglary and theft incident at his residence in San Antonio. The suspect or suspects entered the house through the laundry room by tearing the screen and removing three louvers.

The suspect or suspects stole an Oakley bag that contained a silver Dell laptop, two personal checks, and a check from NMC. Also stolen was a black box that contained an electric cigarette with a charger.

The following day, Norita said he received a call from Hofschneider that he was at New World Store where a surveillance camera had caught the suspects on tape.

A review of the footage showed two suspects receiving cash change after purchasing items using the stolen NMC check in the amount of $60.91.

Norita said it was Martin who received the change, while his companion stood next to him.

Norita said the other responding detective seized from Martin a plastic bag containing items purchased from New World and an envelope that contained one of the victim's stolen personal checks, amounting to $160.94.

The bag also contained the victim's black box with E-Health cigarette indicated on the cover, a USP charger, and other items.

Norita said that Martin admitted to signing the NMC check but claimed that he just found the checks. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Diego: PIDB is looking for fresh capital

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

In this July 14, 2011 file photo, Rep. Diego T. Benavente (Rep-Saipan) laughs as his colleagues bid him farewell during his final session at the House of Representatives on Capital Hill.

Former representative Diego T. Benavente returned to Saipan Tuesday night from the quarterly meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank in Kosrae and said the entity is searching for fresh capital.

Benavente, who serves as one of the governors of the bank, said PIDB officials met with their money managers during the meeting and their investment report indicated that not much growth occurred in the past quarter.

Because member island nations have already maxed our their funds, PIDB is now looking for more capital so "we can provide more loan opportunities for our citizens."

Aside from the CNMI, other member island nations of PIDB are Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

PIDB was established in July of 1989 to help accelerate economic and social development of member countries. It was created in response to a long-standing desire on the part of these small island nations for a development institution that would focus on the pressing needs and problems of the region.

Citizen Benavente

The former House speaker and former lieutenant governor said it was a totally different feeling when he returned to Saipan from the PIDB meeting on Kosrae Tuesday evening.

"I left Saipan still a member of the Legislature and came back retired. It's the anxious feeling of what's next. I know that I made the decision and I got my plans," he said.

Benavente, who resigned from the Legislature last June 30, said to some extent it seems the burden of being a congressman has been lifted off his shoulders.

"You know there are a lot of things that we do here on a normal regular basis, like people calling up to sell tickets or calling you up for tents and tables. It's really not easy given the budget crunch. I guess the question is, do I feel better? Actually I do," he said.

Benavente said retirement from politics seems to suit him well and that his daughter and wife are very happy. He is also looking forward to having more time do work around the house.

When asked what he was doing Wednesday at the Senate chamber, Benavente said he just dropped by to make sure the office of Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) was okay. "I wanted to see her and make sure that the transition from my office to her's has no problems."

$2.6M reimbursement out for transport cost of farmers, ranchers in remote areas

» Signup for 2011 benefits begins on July 25

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced yesterday that USDA has begun issuing approximately $2.6 million in fiscal year 2010 payments through a program that assists farmers and producers outside the contiguous continental United States who paid to transport either an agricultural commodity or an input used to produce an agricultural commodity. The Secretary also announced that the sign-up period for this year's program begins on July 25.

"This program will partially compensate U.S. farmers and ranchers outside the contiguous continental United States who are at a competitive disadvantage when they move their products to market," Vilsack said.

Authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (RTCP) provides payments intended to offset a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances. The program assists farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii, and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau.

RTCP benefits are calculated based on the amount of costs incurred by the producer for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an $8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. Fiscal year 2010 payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers approved for RTCP benefits began on July 20, 2011.

Sign-up for fiscal year 2011 RTCP will begin on July 25, 2011, and end on Sept. 9, 2011. Applicants must file their RTCP application for benefits with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office no later than Sept. 9, 2011. Applicants will have until Nov. 4, 2011, to provide supporting documentation of actual costs of transporting agricultural inputs and commodities in fiscal year 2011 to the FSA county office.

For more information on the new RTCP program, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. ***(PR)***

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Food stamp official commits to helping the CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Responding to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's impassioned call to help the hungry in the Northern Mariana Islands, a top food stamp official at the Department of Agriculture committed her agency to improve the nutrition assistance program in the Marianas at a congressional hearing yesterday.

Sablan laid out his case for putting the Northern Mariana Islands into the national food stamp program at a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture.

Sablan argued that the people he represents in the Northern Mariana Islands are being denied access to food assistance because a "food stamps lite" program, negotiated by the U.S. Agriculture Department and the Commonwealth government, is inadequate and inflexible. Even people who do receive help, he said, get much less than other Americans, yet face much higher food costs.

Sablan is a member of the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, which has oversight over the Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. SNAP provides food aid to some 44.6 million Americans, but the Northern Marianas does not participate in the program.

The sole witness for yesterday's hearing was Audrey Rowe, administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the Agriculture Department.

"Do I have your commitment to help the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan asked her in front of a packed Agriculture Committee hearing room.

"You have my commitment," Rowe told Sablan.

Sablan's emotional description of many of his constituents' struggle to feed their families riveted the attention of his colleagues on the Subcommittee and the listeners in the audience.

"You may not have a vote," Republican chairwoman Jean Schmidt of Ohio told Sablan in front of the gathering. "But your people have a voice."

Members of Congress representing non-state areas do not have a vote in the House chamber, but do vote on legislation in Committee and vote on leadership positions within the Democratic and Republican Party caucuses. ***(PR)***

Russian TV show to give $45M publicity on CNMI uniqueness

Popular Russian television host Michael Shirvindt will feature the Northern Mariana Islands on his highly rated show beginning in September 2011, bringing an estimated $45-million in international exposure to this beach resort destination.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota are becoming increasingly popular with Russian travelers seeking a clean, quiet and safe Pacific getaway.

Shirvindt hosts the leading Russian TV tourism and destination program, "I Want to Know Everything with Michael Shirvindt," and recently concluded taping for the show on three islands. The show, called "Hochu Znat'" in Russian, airs internationally to 250-million Russian speakers in Russia, other former Soviet states, Asia, Australia, the United States, and other areas.

"The anticipated ad exposure for this show exclusively about the Northern Marianas is the largest FAM[iliariziation] tour opportunity we've seen from Russia, yet," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The MVA was pleased to partner with Hochu Znat' on air transportation, facilitation and film permitting, as Russia is an important visitors market we must capitalize on, as much as our meager resources will allow. Thanks to help from our partners and MVA members, we were able to do just that in this case."

The show will feature what makes the Northern Marianas unique in the world, based on 19 topics suggested by the MVA, including the Marianas Trench, indigenous Chamorro latte stones, the Marianas Butterfly Fish, and more. The show will run as a series until September 2012.

MVA

Popular Russian television host Mikhail Shirvindt, center, is joined by the film crew of Russian television show Hochu Znat' and representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority at a welcoming dinner hosted by Mariana Resort & Spa in July 2011. Pictured from left are MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, cameraman Shpiz Ilya, Mariana Resort and Spa's Pavel Esakov, Shirvindt, MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, director Maria Stremina, and editor/producer Elena Igolinskaya.

During their 6-day tour the show crew visited the Flame Tree Arts Festival, Managaha, American Memorial Park, Saipan Zoo, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and a local farm and garden. The crew also took a submarine tour, went trolling, took island tours of Tinian and Rota, took an aerial tour of Saipan, and filmed coconut frond weaving, banana printing, Bo Jo Bo doll production, indigenous Carolinian open ocean navigation, local food preparation, local dances, *tuba* (indigenous coconut-based alcohol) making, noni production and more.

The crew lodged at Mariana Resort & Spa, Rota Resort, and Saipan World Resort during their visit and also sampled the culinary offerings of other major hotels, including Saipan Grand Hotel, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Since the Northern Marianas first started marketing to Russians in 1996, we have seen this market grow to 7 percent of total tourism revenue even with federalization of NMI immigration," said Bateman. "With the average Russian visitor spending 4.5 times as much as other Asian visitors, Russia remains an important and growing contributor to the Northern Marianas' tourism economy."

The FAM tour was also supported by Saipan Sea Venture, Subsea, Saipan Zoo, PDI, Belka Tours, Tasi Tours, Bay Breeze Snack Bar, Star Marianas, and Saipan Events. ***(MVA)***

DEQ welcomes changes to anti-litter law

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman said amendments to the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989 passed by the House of Representatives last week will go a long way toward finally enforcing the law.

For starters, he said, House Bill 17-171's lowering of fines for first-time violators from no less than $200 to $25 would finally remove enforcement officers' apprehension in leveling the fine.

"At present, the littering fines start at $200, irrespective of the extent of the violation, whether a repeat offender, or a blatant or deliberate act. These are some factors that the courts may consider in assessing littering fines. So DEQ proposed revisions to the [anti-] littering act that provide for a range of fines starting from $25 and up. It did so because apprehending officers had aired their concern that $200 is a hefty fine for a first-time offender or if the violation was minor or perhaps unintentional," said Rabauliman.

Additionally, he said it has been proven in other jurisdictions in the Pacific that, when the minimum fine is lowered to a more reasonable and enforceable amount, enforcement officers "tend to enforce the littering laws more readily knowing that they are not basically passing a 'sentence' of $200 but rather deferring the level of punishment to the courts."

Introduced by Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan), HB 17-171 introduces amendments to the "Commonwealth Litter Act of 1989. It replaces existing penalty provisions with a $25 fine for first-time violators, $100 for second-time violators, and no less than $250 but not more than $500 for third-time offenders. Subsequent violators would be fined no less than a $500 but no more than $1,000.

The bill will also establish a Litter Control Program Fund account that will be used to support the costs of administering the Litter Control Program. That would include enforcement, training, and public education and outreach.

HB 17-171 also amends part of the law to require the Department of Public Safety to remove dead animals found on public roads and "place such carcass on the side of the road away from traffic." After being informed by DPS, the Office of the Mayor will properly remove and dispose of the animal remains.

Palacios' bill now goes to the Senate, where it will be deliberated on before being put to a vote.

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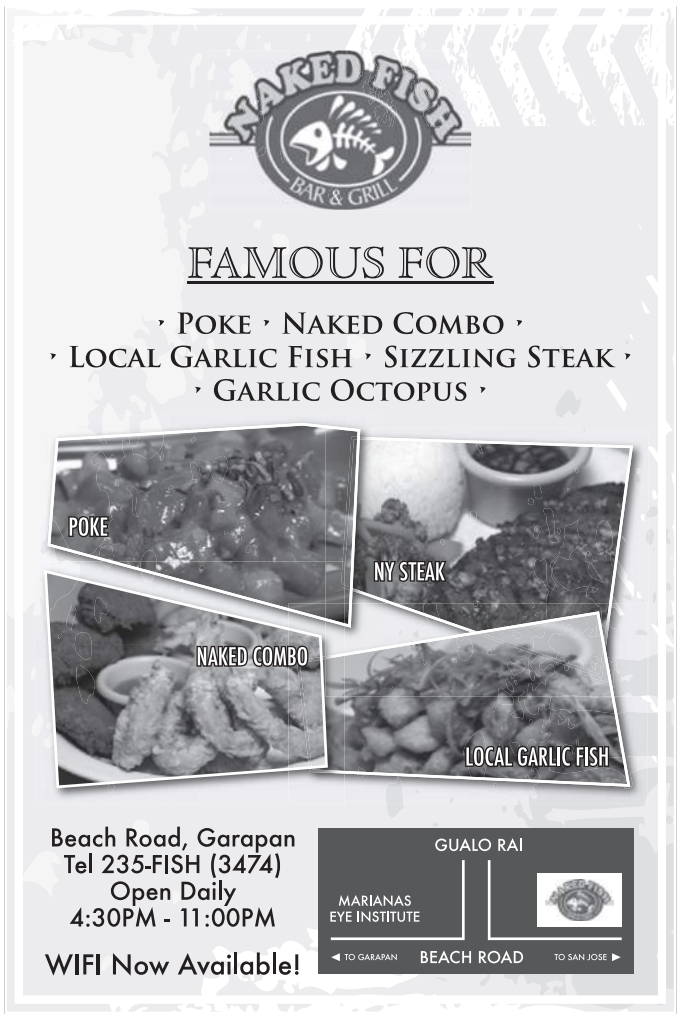


Make-A-Wish sets local phone number in Northern Marianas

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. The Guam chapter services the islands of Guam and the Northern Marianas. In an effort to increase accessibility for clients in the NMI, the Foundation recently partnered with Docomo Pacific's Saipan office to establish a local number.

The new contact number for CNMI residents is 670-483-9474 (*670-483-WISH*). The main Guam office number remains 671-649-9474. The Foundation can be reached via email at info@guam.wish.org for general information, or referral@guam.wish.org for those interested in making a referral on behalf of a child. CNMI residents are also encouraged to follow the chapter on Facebook (www.facebook.com/makeawishguam).

CONTACT INFO

PHONE
In NMI: (670) 483-9474 (670-483-WISH)
In Guam: (671) 649-9474

EMAIL:
For general info: info@guam.wish.org
To refer a child: referral@guam.wish.org

"Without a physical office in the CNMI, we are happy to, at the very least, reach out to our local Saipan, Rota and Tinian clients through a local CNMI phone number making contacting our office that much easier," said Make-A-Wish executive director Victor Camacho.

"Docomo Pacific has been very gracious in partnering with us in assessing our communication needs, filling the communication gaps and providing valuable sponsorship to allow us to continue our mission of granting wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses. Thanks especially to general manager James Nelson and account executive Kevin McCale for their generosity and assistance," Camacho added.

The Foundation has granted wishes to over 200 children in Guam and the Northern Marianas since 1988.

"2011 will see even more magical wishes become reality, thanks in large part to the consistent support received from our volunteers, supporters, island community and business partners," Camacho said. ***(PR)***

CHC

From Page 1

Demapan.

"Following the issuance of the declaration of a state of emergency, the administration is in the process of initiating communication with CDA to tap what appears to be available funds of a little over $1M. Should this reprogramming of funds happen, CHC will be able to disburse pending payments to vendors and realize the resumption of the delivery of critical health supplies to the CNMI's healthcare facilities," he said.

DPH acting secretary Esther Muna said the hospital needs at the soonest possible time $500,000 that will be used for sections that "are in critical need right now like the laboratory and dialysis services."

While CHC owes $2.9 million, Muña said the $500,000 will go a long way in paying off vendors with the most critical supplies—like reagents for laboratory testing and medicines—and prompt them to again make deliveries to the hospital.

"The state of emergency will definitely help us provide the services that patients need. Not having the lab test is important and it affects everything in the department. We had this forum so hopefully they understand it's all about cash. It's not about somebody not doing their job, it's about cash," said Muña.

MARK RABAGO

Commonwealth Health Center officials attended a meeting called by the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare yesterday at the upper house's chamber. From left, Public Health acting deputy secretary for hospital administration Esther Muna, deputy secretary for public health administration John Tagabuel, and public health and hospital preparedness office director Warren Villagomez.

Aside from the $2.9 million in unpaid bills, CHC operations are also hampered by $24 million in collectables each year, said Muña.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said he is confident the acting governor will be able to find the money to address the CHC emergency declaration. He said he wants the CHC situation to be resolved as soon as possible as the health and welfare of the public are at stake.

"I know no one wants to go to the emergency room today because in that situation you've heard the story that [doctors] wouldn't know how to diagnose your illness and without the doctor giving you the correct prescription, there's a chance for disability or death," he said.

House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the Legislature and the Fitial administration should find a long-term solution to the CHC crisis.

While he acknowledges that Finance is already "scraping the bottom of the barrel," he said that giving $500,000 to CHC now will not solve the emergency declaration when CHC again returns a few weeks later to ask for more money to pay its arrears.

Thursday's emergency declaration marks the second time that the hospital was placed under a state of emergency. The first time was in 2009 and only covered the hospital and the Department of Public Health.

The new declaration also covers the Tinian and Rota health centers and was made because of the "imminent threat of disruption in the delivery of critical healthcare services and its ability to keep the doors open to 'healthcare facilities' due to a severe cash shortage."

SNAKES

From Page 1

ing to Hawaii," said Earl Campbell, assistant field supervisor for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "I would look at Guam as the template for what could happen in a range of tropical Pacific Islands that have no snakes."

Hawaii is so serious about keeping snakes out that the fine for possessing an illegal animal can reach $200,000 and up to three years in prison. But snake owners are granted amnesty if they willingly turn their pets over.

Residents who unlawfully keep snakes as pets create a giant risk when the reptiles escape or are released into the wild. A 9-foot (2.7-meter) boa constrictor and 7-foot (2.1-meter) albino Burmese python were captured this month.

"No pet snake is welcome because all it's going to take is the next earthquake, tsunami or hurricane to blow open all those enclosures and introduce to the islands all those pets that were being kept in a house," said Fern Duvall, a wildlife biologist for the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife on Maui. "It's really a grievous problem."

Besides the snake pet threat, environmentalists also fear that snakes could find their way to Hawaii by hitchhiking on cargo ships, undetected by short-staffed agriculture inspectors.

If snakes nested and reproduced, it would quickly be too late to stop them and the Hawaiian islands would be changed forever, said Christy Martin, spokeswoman for the state's Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species.

"It's our moral responsibility to try to keep them out for as long as possible. I don't look forward to future generations saying, 'They really dropped the ball on that one. There used to be birds in Hawaii,'" Martin said.

The number of snake sightings fluctuates from year to year, but they've been steadily rising, said Carol Okada, manager for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Branch.

There was a yearly average of nearly 24 snake sightings reported statewide between 1990 and 2000, according to a 2001 study titled "Risk to Hawaii from Snakes" published in Pacific Science. Okada said there were 36 snake reports in 2008, with data from other recent years not immediately available.

"We don't want the trend to continue," Okada said. "In Hawaii, with all its lush vegetation, you don't want to be worried about snakes while you're hiking."

A snake invasion would have far-reaching effects on the islands, permanently changing its landscape, Duvall said.

First they'd eat bird eggs and small birds, including 34 species of endangered forest birds found in Hawaii such as the Maui parrotbill, crested honeycreeper and Hawaiian crow, he said. Spider webs would drape trees and darken forests without birds to kill them. Insect populations would boom. Power outages would increase as snakes hung from electricity lines.

These consequences have already occurred on Guam, according to Campbell, saying the snakes there established themselves across the landscape in about three decades.

In this month's captures on Oahu, the snakes appeared to be pets, agriculture officials said. The docile boa constrictor was found by pig hunters on a dirt road, and the python was retrieved from a home after police received a tip.

Joaquin Manglona appointed to the utilities commission

» Three others named to other boards

Acting governor Eloy Inos appointed yesterday Joaquin S. Manglona as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Rota.

If confirmed by the Senate, Manglona will join Viola Alepuyo, the only member of the commission right now. He will serve a four-year term that will expire on July 21, 2015.

In his appointment letter, Inos said the administration is confident that Manglona is qualified for the position and will consistently devote his time and efforts to represent the interest of the Commonwealth.

The acting governor also appointed Tom Glenn Quitugua as a member of the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors, representing Rota. If confirmed, his term will expire on April 21, 2015. Quitugua is a former member of the CDA board.

Two other individuals were also named to the Scholarship Advisory Board. Mark M. Manglona was named to the board representing Rota while Christopher Attao Conception was appointed to represent Saipan on the same body.

Unlike the other appointments, members of the Scholarship Advisory Board are not subject to Senate confirmation and their appointments have no expiration date.

The scholarship advisory board reviews application for student grants, student loans, and other programs administered by the Office of the Governor. The board also recommends objective standards for the award of student financial aid.

Pursuant to the law, all appointees are required to file a statement of financial interest with the public auditor and other prerequisite as required by the positions. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

TEBUTEB

From Page 1

5 Section 1 states that, "Enrollment shall become effective when an application signed by the applicants and witnessed by a member of a party has been received by the executive committee."

For Tebuteb, what happened last July 8 was similar to a hostile takeover under the guise of a merger or transition.

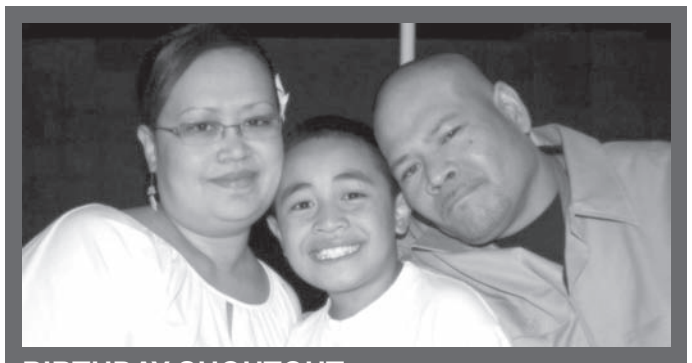
"I and many other party members, in all sincerity cannot accept this new leadership based on the aforementioned and other violations of our GOP bylaws. As such you are still the president of the Republican Party of the CNMI," said Tebuteb.

Babauta was elected the Republican Party of the NMI's president on July 8 during a general meeting that also saw the acceptance of 1,077 new and returning members, mostly former Covenant Party members.

Besides Babauta, the others who were elected as board members were Division of Fish and Wildlife's Richard Seman, Ramon "Ray" Salas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, and Coastal Resources Management director Rita Chong.

The members also re-elected Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr. as national committeeman, and elected Viola Alepuyo as national committeewoman. Alepuyo is a Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission board member and Retirement Fund counsel.

Alepuyo's term won't start until September 2012, though, as MaryLou Ada is still the national committeewoman.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Tripler Jr. "Junjun" Dela Cruz, center, who will be turning 9 years old on July 22, 2011, Arizona time! Much love and may you have many more wonderful birthday blessings to come! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad and the families!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

15 mariners found marooned on island

U.S. NAVY

A group of 15 mariners, missing for three days, are spotted linking hands together to spell out "S.O.S." as a Navy P-3 Orion long-range search aircraft passed over the island, on the small, uninhabited atoll of Fanano July 22, 2011. The atoll of Fanano is part of the Murilo Atoll, which comprises a small portion of the Federation States of Micronesia.

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The 28-foot skiff with 15 passengers, missing since Wednesday, has been located on the beach of an uninhabited island in the Federated States of Micronesia Thursday.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report yesterday afternoon that a vessel matching the description of the missing white 28-foot skiff with 15 passengers had been found. A vessel leaving Ruo Island, the intended destination of the missing skiff and also in FSM, saw the vessel marooned and overturned. According to the report several people were also on shore.

The mariners were found alive and reportedly in good condition with food. The group consisted of six children and nine adults: 10 males and five females, ages ranging between 4 and 59 years old.

Search assets combed an area approximately 16,200 nautical miles over a time period of 76.5 hours.

Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* traveled 550 miles from Guam to reach the stranded survivors, and is now making plans to assist them back to Ruo or Weno in FSM.

Sector Guam personnel used the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system to identify commercial vessels in the area that could assist with the search. M/V *Höegh Asia*, a Norwegian cargo ship and M/V *Southern Explorer,* a Panamanian ship, both participating members of the AMVER program, responded to the request for assistance.

Additionally, a good Samaritan vessel on its way to Guam, the M/V *Islander*, and local fishermen across the region assisted in the search.

"U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam did not conduct this successful search alone. A search of this magnitude would not have been possible without the support of U.S. Coast Guard District 14, Coast Guard Airstation Barbers Point, the U.S. Navy, and Capt. Thomas Narruhn from the Chuuk Department of Transportation. However, I am most grateful to the patron saint of communications for remote Pacific Islanders, Mr. Bruce Best from PEACESAT. He is the real hero in this case," said Capt. Thomas Sparks, Commander Sector Guam.

PEACESAT, or Pan Pacific Education and Communication Experiment by Satellite, is a long range communications network based in Guam that provides emergency information to islands without telephones or other means of communication.

"Without Bruce Best and his proficient use of the PEACESAT program…the boat that spotted the skiff would probably not have known to be on the lookout for it," said Sparks. "Moreover, timely communication with these islands to confirm the status of the passengers on board this missing skiff would not have been possible."

Boaters are strongly encouraged to file a float plan, have basic lifesaving gear on board such as Personal Floatation Devices, and have a means of communications sufficient for the voyage that is being undertaken. In particular, mariners should always have on board emergency signaling devices such as day and night flares. A signaling device can even be something as simple as a mirror and can ultimately make the difference in whether you are rescued. ***(USCG)***

Fishing boat runs aground in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Coast Guardsmen from Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa responded to a grounded fishing vessel in the vicinity of Matuu Bay at 5:30am, Thursday.

The fishing vessel *Inja* ran aground on a reef approximately 100 yards offshore while returning from a fishing trip. Another ship in the area witnessed the grounding and notified the Coast Guard.

The vessel's owner has hired the response organization SOLAR Inc. to prevent pollution from entering the environment. Since commencing site operations SOLAR Inc., under the supervision of the Coast Guard, has made steady progress to secure the 400 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of used oil aboard the vessel.

The vessel owner is currently dewatering the fish holds and offloading equipment from its decks to lighten the vessel. The remaining work includes removal of potential onboard contaminates to accomplish the primary goal of the operation to protect the environment.

The Coast Guard is working with local American Samoa Marine Patrol, port authority officials, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA to oversee safe removal of the vessel from the reef. ***(USCG)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerån siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Americans need to rethink what retirement means

(c) 2011, San Jose Mercury News

Retirement isn't what it used to be, on several levels.

For true retirees—people living entirely on investments and fixed incomes—confidence in having a comfortable life with lots of travel and golf is less common than it was a few decades ago. In the private sector, fixed-benefit pension plans mostly have given way to 401(k) savings that are at the mercy of the stock market, which has not been especially merciful in this decade. Its ups and downs tend to average out over time in an upward direction, but that's cold comfort if you've planned to retire and the market picks that time to tank.

Then there are the retirees (and here we have a vocabulary problem) who are not really retiring at all.

The latest reminder was last week's news that retired Santa Clara Police Chief Steven Lodge, whose pension is $200,000 a year, is returning to work for the city just months after he left—now as a $100 per hour consultant on security plans for the 49ers stadium.

This is neither unusual nor limited to top-level retirees. Police and firefighters who retire in their early 50s—how many really stop working? Most take their pensions, sometimes higher than final paychecks, and get another good job.

They are entitled to do this, but it is not retirement as most of us think of the word. So it grates on the taxpayers footing at least part of the pension bill.

A similar vocabulary disconnect has occurred with sick pay, which should go back to being for when you're sick.

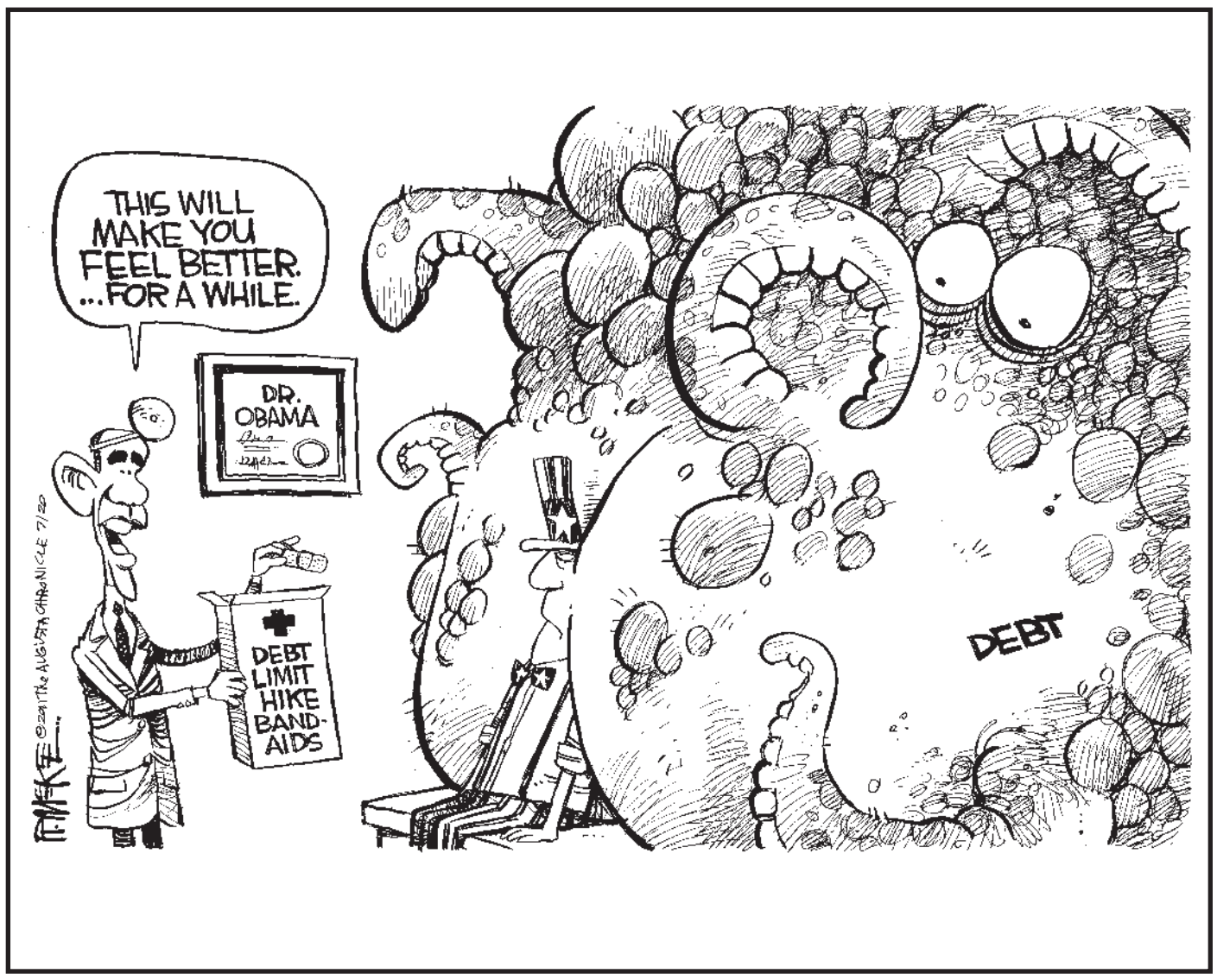
Words matter. When people hear sick leave has become a slush fund in parts of the public sector, and workers on the public payroll are "retiring" in their early 50s and getting another job—sometimes also on the public payroll, like Chief Lodge—it sounds like a scam. This is not the fault of the public employees, who are legally entitled to the compensation. It is simply an untenable trend because so many taxpayers today can't hope to achieve the retirements and other benefits they're helping to fund.

The fact that private sector retirees face a less secure future is nothing to celebrate. In recent decades, seniors have pumped up the economy with their spending, including helping the kids buy houses. And expecting people to work later in life has downsides: Ask anyone who's lost a job in their 60s how easy it is to find another. Even when workers stay in jobs longer, that's fewer opportunities for the young.

Raising the age at which workers can start taking their full retirement benefit may help public perception as well as help control public costs. San Jose is looking at this. It's how Social Security works. If you collect early, you get lower payments.

It's also time to think about the future of government, particularly at the local level, where the services residents value are all about the people delivering them, from cops to librarians. The systems we put in place in this crisis have to allow for better compensation when times improve. But it should be in salaries, bonuses and contributions to pension and other benefit plans rather than promising higher fixed, future benefits.

This will help neutralize the anger over retirements that really aren't and over and sick pay that has nothing to do with being sick.



A poor definition of poverty

By ROBERT RECTOR
The Heritage Foundation

Robert Rector is senior research fellow in domestic policy at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org) and co-author of the new report "Air Conditioning, Cable TV and an Xbox: What is Poverty in the United States Today?" Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

For two decades, the Census Bureau has reported almost yearly that more than 35 million Americans live in "poverty." Last fall, census officials grabbed headlines by saying 43.5 million persons were poor. That's one in seven Americans.

But what does it mean to be "poor" in America? What is poverty?

For most U.S. residents, the word "poverty" suggests destitution: an inability to provide yourself and your family with reasonable shelter, nutritious food and clothing.

A Poverty Pulse poll taken by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, for example, asked: "How would you describe being poor in the U.S.?" The vast majority of responses focused on homelessness, hunger or inability to eat properly, and failure to meet basic needs.

The dominant news media amplifies this link in the public mind between poverty and severe deprivation. Most stories on poverty feature homeless families, or folks living in crumbling shacks, or lines of the downtrodden waiting to eat in soup kitchens.

Fortunately, such images have little or nothing to do with the actual living conditions of most of the more than 40 million Americans defined as "poor" by the Census Bureau.

The government's own survey data shows that in 2005, the average poor household lived in a house or apartment equipped with air conditioning and cable television. The family had a car—and a third of the poor have at least two cars.

For entertainment, the average poor household enjoyed two color TVs, a DVD player and a VCR. If children were in the home (especially boys), the family had a video game system such as Xbox or PlayStation.

A microwave, refrigerator, oven and stove were all in the kitchen of the average poor household. Other conveniences included clothes washer and dryer, ceiling fans, cordless phone and coffee maker.

The home of this average poor family also was in good repair and not overcrowded, according to government data. In fact, the typical poor American had more living space than the average European. (That's average European, not average poor European.)

Not only was the average poor family able to obtain necessary medical care, but when asked most families said they had enough money in the past year to meet all essential needs.

By the family's own report, it wasn't hungry. In fact, the average intake of protein, vitamins and minerals by poor children is indistinguishable from that of kids in the upper middle class. In most cases, it's well above recommended norms.

Poor young men today are actually taller and heavier at age 18 or 19 than young men in the middle class were in the late 1950s. They're also a full inch taller and 10 pounds heavier than American soldiers who fought in World War II.

The main dietary problem faced by poor Americans is eating too much, not too little. The majority of poor adults, like most Americans, are overweight.

Should a family that lives this way be considered poor? The overwhelming answer from the public is no. A scientific national poll conducted in 2009 for The Heritage Foundation asked individuals whether they agreed or disagreed with this statement:

"A family in the U.S. that has a decent, uncrowded house or apartment to live in, ample food to eat, access to medical care, a car, cable television, air conditioning and a microwave at home should not be considered poor."

These living conditions closely match those of the typical family defined as "poor" by the Census Bureau. But the vast majority of Americans said they wouldn't regard such a family as poor. That includes 80 percent of Republicans and 77 percent of Democrats.

Does this mean there are few poor families in the United States? Of course not. Many families experience significant material hardship. Fortunately, they are a distinct minority among the more than 40 million Americans the government calls poor.

During the recession year of 2009, for example, the majority of poor families had an adequate and reasonably steady supply of food. However, many worried at times about having enough money for food. One in five temporarily ran short on food at various times.

Although the overwhelming majority of the poor were well-housed, the government numbers show, roughly 4 percent became temporarily homeless during 2009.

Such problems remain a real concern. But effective government policy and programs must be based on accurate information, not sensation-mongering.

In the long run, grossly exaggerating the extent and severity of material deprivation in America won't benefit the poor, the economy or society as a whole.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nature and leisure

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We cock our head when we hear discussions on ecotourism focused on economic gains from the activity rather than the significance of the tour to the persons involved, the hosts, and the guests. Tourists come and gawk, to look-see what is either marvelous or not ordinarily seen back home. Tourists are of an escaping mind set.

Travelers, on the other hand, engage and relate, being of eyes that sees the wonder and the awe in their common and ordinary surroundings, journey to other places prepared to experience the indigenous common and ordinary incidences of awe and wonder in their destinations. Unique geography, resident flora and fauna, historical memory of a place, but more importantly, the living authenticity of the resident population, invite unity in diversity.

Saipan's historical memory is ebbing swiftly into the sunset. Enshrined primarily by Nippon's loss in WWII, Nihongos gained affinity when Reagan "adjusted" the value of the dollar and increased the value of the ¥en, earning Japan a commercial welcome to the islands. They returned with intact heart and soul. Royals Akihito and Michiko, *Teno* (Emperor) of the *Koshitsu* (Imperial House) of the *Yamato* dynasty made a sudden 2005 visit. Father Hirohito was the reigning monarch at the height of Japan's imperial adventure in Co-prosperity Sphere Asia in the second third of the 1900s.

Relegated as an outpost for covert operations in the early stages of the Cold War, the Marianas and the rest of Micronesia were catapulted to global stare when JFK noticed the discrepancy between State's rhetoric toward decolonization and the Pentagon's behavior in the TT of Micronesia. Thus began Marianas' march toward political maturity and the exigencies of political choices.

Our current debate on Article 12 on land ownership is actually a quarrel over titles rather than usage, a recent invention from South Australia in the mid-1800 adopted by the rest of the world. Feudal Europe was royalty owned and lords granted stewardship of their patrimony to their liege. In one sense, nature in the Marianas is self-sustaining, relatively pristine save settled areas in Guahan, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan apportioned by colonial sovereign lords to individuals.

While Sir Robert Torrens created a legal accountability structure to stewardship of land, Chief Seattle *aka* Chief Washington, responding to Washington, D.C.'s proposal to buy native lands, allegedly responded realistically. Extant records may be embellishments of English translation and/or reports, but what is known of Chief Seattle and the ecological understanding of native Americans in the northwest is congruent with the content of the reported thoughts.

Briefly, the native understanding is that land do not belong to humans, rather, humans belong to the land. *How can we sell what we do not own?* he intones. In our case, an umbilical relationship exists between humankind and nature—land, sea, and sky—and all within it; applicable to both *taotao tano* (the people of the land) and *taotao tasi* (the people of the sea). The matrilineal ties of inheritance between mother and offspring stem directly from this umbilical understanding. Ownership is not the primary concern; stewardship is.

Travelers who are possible visitors to the Marianas come on the promise of an admixture of natural ambience and leisure. Travelers from China have Hainan to go to at half the cost, with options to go to the Zhongs' autonomous Guangxi and its *Lijiang* (karst-lined Li river), and to the casino capital of the world, *Aomen* (Macao), for the gaming kind.

The majority of the Xhongguoren we get in the CNMI are low income folk trying to find a way to the U.S. at a cheaper rate but hardly the high rolling casino players our Rah-Rah boys ($500 mil p.a. revenue) are promoting, nor the high-end spenders who can afford to shop in Milan, Paris, New York, Tokyo, and Seoul.

Korea and Japan's landscapes are basically manicured gardens sans the allure of wildlife. Though forests are not mono-cultured as those in ANZ, they are designed to be accessible in the same fashion as our grotto welcomes divers. Even the Korean island of Jeju-do, also a Nippon destination, is tame save for deep sea-diving to gather kelp.

The CNMI promises a low-cost option for Japanese and Korean travelers. Nature and leisure seekers may find the promise too well ahead of the reality, but the CNMI can transform this island chain into a real ecologically friendly destination. If only we learn to respect nature without constructing more Marpi poles.

People-friendly would be a good start too. But then, I can only speak as one who has been ripped off of two MacBooks, a Sony and a Nikon camera, and five bikes, so someone else will have to do that PR. But, we practice our island smile daily. Asiana's flights are booked solid for a month. I am people-friendly, and I recycle my trash!

Anneonghaseyo! Hwangyeong-hamnida!

Breaking America's oil addiction

By PETER GOLDMARK
NEWSDAY

While the eurozone gropes for a way out of its financial morass and the American president and the extremist Republican majority in the House of Representatives discuss fitfully how to restructure the federal budget and avert the market shock of default or near-default on Treasury securities, a less visible, secular change with long-term consequences is unfolding.

That change is the tightening of oil supplies around the globe. In the murky world of petroleum, it's hard to tell in the short term what's really going on. Among the variables shrouded in fog: the amount of proven reserves and new fields various oil-producers control, the "short" or "long" (sell or buy) positions various players in the oil markets hold, and the actual production capacities of various producers.

With billions of dollars at stake daily, the players go to great lengths to withhold, distort or otherwise manage such information for their own geostrategic or commercial advantage.

The ability of the Saudis to single-handedly dictate price and smooth global production has been eroded by the limits of their own reserves and by relentlessly increasing demand from fast-growing economies such as China and India. In the United States, we already see this price pressure at the gas pump. Short-term fluctuations are hard to predict, but the long-term direction is clear: steadily growing demand, a squeeze on supply and rising prices.

The challenge this presents to the United States is to make good on a promise that every American president since Richard M. Nixon has made but never delivered on: to break America's addiction to imported oil. There are understandable reasons why past presidents didn't get serious about this. It means big changes in American life and requires taking on some of the most powerful interests on the American political landscape, including the oil production and distribution lobbies.

But the clock has now run out, and there's no choice unless we are ready to become a petro-colony that pays even more than the roughly $400 billion in tribute to oil that we now send overseas each year. What does a different policy look like?

First, it means conservation and efficiency on every possible front: hybrids and electric vehicles, more use of mass transportation, and sharply tougher efficiency standards for gasoline-driven vehicles.

Second, it means removing the present tax subsidies to petroleum products wherever those appear. To give tax breaks to those selling something that creates American dependence on other powers is lunacy. And while we will hear pious moaning from the oil folks about higher gas prices as a result, the real driver on prices isn't internal American tax subsidies; it's the global supply-and-demand equation.

Third, it means opening up the market and distribution channels to all substitutes for imported gasoline and diesel fuel. This includes natural gas products, unsubsidized ethanol, methanol and anything else American ingenuity can come up with. Some of these will require modest adjustments to vehicle engines, but those adjustments have already been preinstalled in some models and can easily be fitted to the balance of the fleet as long-term policies are put in place. The transition will also need to include a carbon-emission limit, so that we don't unwittingly get off imported oil but on increased emissions.

This will be a major shift in the American economy, in incentives that govern how we travel, and in the kinds of vehicles we use and the fuel that powers them. It will be interesting to see if anyone running for president next year has the foresight and the guts to raise this issue and outline the new policies that will be required.

And it will be interesting to see if we, the American public, are ready to listen.

Peter Goldmark, a former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, *headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for* Newsday.

Wall Street errors hurt Libya, too

By DANIEL AKST
NEWSDAY

Those who think the little guy always gets the short end of the stick on Wall Street will be heartened by the release of a report showing that people with $64 billion to invest get treated little better. That's the impression left by last year's third-quarter report of the Libyan Investment Authority, which manages that unhappy nation's oil money on behalf of Moammar Gadhafi.

Of course, nobody should cry for Gadhafi. For years, critics of his regime have charged that he and his cronies used its funds (now frozen as a result of international sanctions) as a personal piggy bank. The weapons he's turning against his own people in the current civil war were probably paid for out of Libya's oil money.

Gadhafi hasn't been able to rout the rebels fighting to overthrow his despotic government. But judging by the new report—which was leaked to Global Witness, an organization that investigates the misuse of resource wealth—he is no match for the world's investment pros.

Although the report doesn't give a very detailed picture of how Libya's various investments performed, it does focus on a number of subpar, externally managed funds into which Libya had invested $1.4 billion at the start of 2009.

What's striking about these funds is that their managers charged sky-high fees for such execrable performance. At a time when stock markets around the globe were up more than 25 percent, the report complains, these funds were down 23 percent. One professionally managed fund was down nearly 40 percent, yet charged $27 million in fees—nearly 10 percent of the original investment.

The report doesn't make clear how well Libya has done on other such funds, yet even if some have excelled, how can any professionals charge so much to accomplish so little? Unfortunately, some version of this same potent combo—high fees and mediocre performance—is working against Joe and Jane Investor as they struggle to save for retirement.

In the long run, stocks are a pretty good investment, yet study after study has demonstrated that active stock-picking by professional managers has little or no value. Few managers beat the market consistently, and it's almost impossible to predict who will do so. The problem is that management fees and taxes take such a big bite out of investment returns. Stock fund investors pay an average fee of nearly 1 percent a year, and while that may not sound like much, in the long run it adds up.

Actively managed funds also generate bigger tax bills because they buy and sell a lot. But even when a stock fund is sheltered from taxes in a retirement account, most investors would be better off just investing in an index fund, which mimics the performance of a major stock index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500, at very low cost and with little tax-generating turnover.

For example, if Gadhafi had invested his $1.4 billion in an S&P 500 index fund—the widely advertised kind available to any small investor—he'd have had $1.7 billion by the time of the report. But instead, the pros handed back only $1.08 billion.

Most fund managers no doubt try hard to do a good job for their investors, and many savers probably wouldn't invest at all without the baseless confidence they derive from having a pro in charge.

Unfortunately, the pros are engaged in a Sisyphean struggle to push large piles of money uphill. All the evidence suggests hardly any will overcome the handicap of their own expenses. And most who do are just lucky.

So far NATO jets haven't managed to unseat Gadhafi. Maybe it's time to take off the gloves—and call in some more money managers.

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, *is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

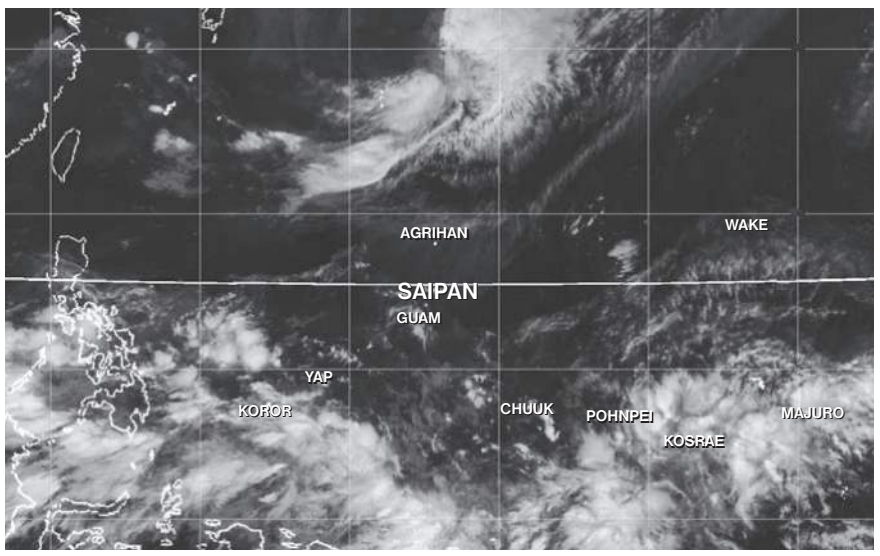
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲81	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲56	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Parrly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼40
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲99	▼77
Osaka	Parrly Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼53
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲81	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲81	▼65
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲82	▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲101	▼82

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging west winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Iwo To island north of a line from 21N135E to 24N143E. A monsoon trough heads east-southeastward from the Philippines through circulations centered between Koror and Yap at 9N136E south of Chuuk at 2N151E to finally end south of Kosrae at 4N163E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and circulations near Koror and southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 10N130E to 6N150E. Similar weather is also found north of the trough or northeast of Yap between 10N and 15N from 137E to 142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with circulation near Kosrae are present south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 156E to 164E. Converging winds north and east of this circulation are producing the same conditions over Kosrae and Ujae within 145 miles of a line from 8N163E to 6N168E to 1N168E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between 1N and 6N from 170E to 176E. Trade-wind convergence is creating similar conditions northeast of Majuro within 85 miles of a line from 9N173E to 9N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:40 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
1:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:58 PM	12:12 PM
Sunday		1:01 PM
Monday	12:41 AM	1:52 PM
Tuesday	1:27 AM	2:45 PM
Wednesday	2:18 AM	3:39 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Economy's spring slump may last through summer

AP
A recruiter for Farmers Insurance, right, greets people attending the Pittsburgh Career Fair on Thursday, July 21, 2011 in Pittsburgh.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy's spring slump appears to be extending into the summer, according to a slew of mixed data released Thursday.

Layoffs are rising. Manufacturing activity in the Northeast expanded only slightly in July after contracting in June. Economic growth is projected to pick up this fall, but not enough to give businesses confidence to hire and speed the recovery.

The economy could lapse even further if Congress and the Obama administration fail to reach an agreement on raising the nation's borrowing limit in the coming week.

But for the moment, traders on Wall Street don't seem worried. Stocks soared Thursday on news that European governments were moving toward agreement on an aid package for Greece. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 152 points up for the day.

Economists are less optimistic. They are forecasting a third straight month of feeble hiring in July, based on the latest round of data. Expectations are the economy added somewhere in the range of 50,000 to 100,000 net new jobs this month.

That's not enough to keep up with population growth and far below what is needed to lower the unemployment rate, which was 9.2 percent last month.

"We're going to see improvement, but right now nothing's improved yet," said Joshua Dennerlein, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Applications for unemployment benefits rose last week to a seasonally adjusted 418,000, the Labor Department said. They have now topped 400,000 for 15 straight weeks. Applications had fallen in February to 375,000, a level that signals healthy job growth.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its manufacturing index rose to 3.2 in July, a sign that the sector is growing again. It had contracted in June for the first time in nine months. The index dropped to negative 7.7, the lowest level in two years. Any figure below zero indicates contraction.

The index had topped 40 in March. The lower reading illustrates the impact of a parts shortage caused by the Japanese earthquake, which has affected many U.S. automakers and electronics producers. Still, manufacturers expressed some hope in the latest survey, saying they expect orders and shipments to pick up significantly six months from now.

The Conference Board projected modest growth for the broader economy in the coming months based on its latest reading of leading economic indicators. The index rose in June for the second straight month. It had declined in April, the first time that had happened in nearly a year.

The private research group offered a caveat: U.S. lawmakers must agree to raise the government's borrowing limit and avoid a catastrophic default on the debt.

Nation

Endgame talks: Obama, House Republicans meet anew

WASHINGTON (AP)—In secretive endgame negotiations, President Barack Obama and House Republican leaders reached anew on Thursday for an elusive "grand bargain" deal to cut deficits by $4 trillion or more and prevent a threatened Aug. 2 government default, officials said.

House Speaker John Boehner declared that his rank and file generally stood ready to compromise in order to reach an agreement as a way of "getting our economy going again and growing jobs.

Still, 12 days before the default deadline, officials stressed that no compromise appeared imminent. And new hope of one ran instantly into old resistance: from Republicans opposed to higher taxes and Democrats loath to cut Medicare and other benefit programs.

While talks on a major, long-term agreement continued, a fresh, shorter-term backup plan appeared to be gaining momentum. Under discussion among some House Republicans, that proposal would cut spending by $1 trillion or slightly more immediately and raise the debt limit by a similar amount—enough to postpone a final reckoning until early in 2012.

Both sides maneuvered for political advantage and for leverage in negotiations about which little was publicly known.

"At the end of the day, we have a responsibility to act," said Boehner of GOP lawmakers,

Across the Capitol, however, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid blamed some of the same Republicans—"tea party extremists," he called them—of blocking a deal.

The sometimes-conflicting information underscored the frenzied final days before a threatened default, when the Treasury would no longer be able to pay all its bills in full and the economy could go into a tailspin as interest rates spiked.

Boehner

Some Democrats confided they were worried Obama would sign off on an agreement that cuts benefit programs without raising tax revenue, and they peppered Budget Director Jack Lew—in a closed-door meeting in the Senate—with questions about the high-level negotiations.

The president has said publicly he wants a deficit-reduction plan that includes both, and Reid pointedly reminded him that was the case.

"My caucus agrees with that—and hope the president sticks with that, and I'm confident he will," the Nevada Democrat said.

Within hours, he and other senior Democrats in both houses were on their way to the White House to meet again with Obama.

One official said the White House had notified Democratic congressional leaders Wednesday night that Obama and the House leaders appeared to be were closing in on a deal that is said to include $3 trillion in spending cuts but only a promise of higher revenues.

Boehner's office and the White House said that account as overblown in part and inaccurate in part. Some Republicans charged it had been spread to anger Democrats and torpedo any possibility of a deal that would cut Medicare or Social Security.

"We're not close to a deal," said Jay Carney, the White House press secretary.

Another Democratic official said that in fact progress had been made, but Boehner's office declined to say as much.

"While we are keeping the lines of communication open, there is no `deal' and no progress to report," said spokesman Michael Steel.

The government's debt stands at a record $14.3 trillion and has been growing by more than $1 trillion a year. Obama's request for an increase prompted Boehner to say months ago that any rise must be accompanied by spending cuts of at least the same amount.

Publicly, some Republicans insisted they would not entertain any fallback measure as long as a separate House-passed bill was pending in the Senate.

That measure would raise the debt limit by $2.4 trillion while requiring an estimated $6 trillion in cuts and a congressional vote to send the states a constitutional balanced budget amendment for ratification.

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. an influential conservative, said that bill was "the only one that can pass before the Aug. 2 deadline."

End of an era: Last space shuttle comes home

AP

The drag chute is deployed as the space shuttle Atlantis lands at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, completing STS-135, the final mission of the NASA shuttle program, on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The space shuttle passed into history Thursday, the words "wheels stop" crackling over the cockpit radio for the very last time.

In an almost anticlimactic end to the 30-year-old program, Atlantis and its four astronauts glided to a ghostly landing in near-darkness after one last visit to the International Space Station, completing the 135th and final shuttle flight.

It was a moment of both triumph and melancholy.

"I saw grown men and grown women crying today—tears of joy to be sure," said launch director Mike Leinbach. "Human emotions came out on the runway today, and you couldn't suppress them."

Now the spaceship and the two other surviving shuttles will become museum pieces, like the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo capsules and the Wright brothers' flying machine before them. NASA astronauts, a dwindling breed, will have to hitch rides to the space station aboard Russian Soyuz capsules for at least three to five years. And thousands more shuttle workers will lose their jobs, beginning with a round of layoffs on Friday.

The spaceship's return was witnessed at the Kennedy Space Center and Houston's Johnson Space Center by a relatively small crowd, mostly of NASA family and friends, compared with the 1 million who watched Atlantis lift off on July 8.

In Houston, flight director Tony Ceccacci, who presided over Atlantis' safe return, choked up while signing off from Mission Control for the final time.

"The work done in this room, in this building, will never again be duplicated," he told his team before the doors opened and the center filled with dozens of past and present flight controllers.

Shuttle commander Christopher Ferguson and his crew seized every opportunity to thank the thousands of workers who got them safely to and from orbit and guided them through the 13-day flight.

"After serving the world for over 30 years, the space shuttle's earned its place in history. And it's come to a final stop," he radioed after Atlantis touched down just before dawn.

"We copy your wheels stop," Mission Control replied. "Job well done, America."

NASA is getting out of the business of sending cargo and astronauts to the space station, outsourcing the job to private companies.

The first privately operated supply run is expected later this year. But it will be an unmanned flight. It could be several years before private companies fly astronauts to the space station, which is expected to carry on for at least another decade. In the meantime, NASA will rely on the Russians for rides.

The longer-term future for American space exploration is hazy, a huge concern for many at NASA. President Barack Obama has set a goal of sending astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and Mars in the mid-2030s. But the space agency has yet to even settle on a rocket design.

Thursday, though, belonged to Atlantis and its crew: Ferguson, co-pilot Douglas Hurley, Rex Walheim and Sandra Magnus, who during their mission delivered a year's worth of food and other supplies to the space station and took out the trash.

They were greeted with cheers, whistles and shouts by 2,000 people who gathered near the landing strip—astronauts' families and friends, as well as shuttle managers and NASA brass. Ferguson and his crew were later swarmed on the runway by well-wishers.

ACROSS THE NATION

AP sources: Panetta to OK end of military gay ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense officials say Pentagon chief Leon Panetta will certify that gays may serve openly in the armed services. News of his decision comes two weeks after top military leaders agreed that repealing the 17-year-old ban will not hurt military readiness. The decision is not unexpected. The Pentagon has conducted months of internal studies and training to gauge how troops would react to the change triggered by a law passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in December. The Pentagon announcement is expected Friday, and Obama is expected to endorse it. Repeal of the ban would become effective 60 days after certification, which could open the military to gays by the end of September.

Ga. inmate dies in videotaped lethal injection

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia man convicted of killing his parents and sister was executed Thursday after the courts allowed what experts say is the nation's first video-recorded execution in almost two decades. Andrew DeYoung, 37, received a lethal injection Thursday night at the state prison in Jackson after courts turned down his appeals. A videographer with a camera on a tripod stood about 5 feet away from the gurney inside the execution chamber. When asked to make a final statement, DeYoung said he was "sorry to everyone I hurt." "I love you Dawn. Remember to smile," DeYoung said. His lawyer said Dawn was an old friend. He declined the offer of a final prayer.

Autopsies confirm mother and 2 sons stabbed

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—Autopsies show that an Oregon mother and two of her four children were stabbed in the neck before firefighters found them in their burning house. Medford police Lt. Bob Hansen announced Thursday that Tabasha Paige-Criado's cause of death was stab wounds to the neck and abdomen. He says the autopsy lists the probable cause of death for all four of the young children as smoke inhalation. Stab wounds to the neck are listed as an additional cause of death for two of the boys—6-year-old Isaac and 5-year-old Andrew. Police say they believe the father, Jordan Adam Criado, killed his family and set the house on fire. He has not regained consciousness and remains in guarded condition in a Medford hospital.

Prison resumes forcible medication of Loughner

PHOENIX (AP)—Prison officials have resumed forcibly medicating the man accused of wounding U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a deadly shooting rampage in Tucson, lawyers for the suspect said Thursday. Jared Lee Loughner's attorneys questioned in court filings whether the involuntary psychotropic drug treatments are in violation of an order by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court, in a ruling earlier this month, forbid prison officials from forcibly treating Loughner, 22, while an appeal on his behalf is being considered. Mental health experts have determined Loughner, who is being held at a federal facility in Missouri, suffers from schizophrenia and will try to make him psychologically fit to stand trial.

Asia

Asian nations move to calm tension in the Pacific region

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Asian nations moved on Friday to defuse two critical points of tension in the Pacific, in preliminary steps welcomed by the Obama administration, which is moving to reassert U.S. influence in the region.

On the sidelines of a Southeast Asian regional security conference in Bali, Indonesia, China and its neighbors reached a draft agreement to peacefully resolve competing territorial claims in the strategic South China Sea while North and South Korea agreed to resume talks. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton commended Beijing and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for the deal and expressed cautious hope that discussion between Seoul and Pyongyang could help relaunch stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations with the North.

"I want to commend China and ASEAN for working so closely together to include implementation guidelines for the declaration of conduct in the South China Sea," Clinton told Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the meeting.

Yang said he believed the agreement would go "a long way" in promoting "peace and stability" in the resource-rich South China Sea, through which one-third of the world's shipping passes. "This will of course provide favorable conditions for the proper handling and settlement of disputes among claimants," he said.

China, which claims sovereignty over the entire South China Sea, has been accused in recent months of trying to intimidate oil exploration by the Philippines and Vietnam in waters that are partially claimed also by those two countries and Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia. Beijing long has resisted calls for a binding code of conduct that would require disputes in the waterway to be solved peacefully and without threats of violence.

Last year, Clinton raised Beijing's ire by saying resolution to the disputes was a U.S. national security interest because of Washington's desire to guarantee navigational safety and maritime security in the South China Sea. She made the matter a central point of her participation in the East Asia Summit hosted by Vietnam, something that U.S. President Barack Obama is expected to restate when he attends that event this year.

U.S. officials are keen to see the deal implemented but warned that much more work needed to be done. Clinton said she would lay out U.S. ideas for making it work in a speech to the forum on Saturday. "It's an important first step," Kurt Campbell, the top U.S. diplomat for Asia, told reporters. "It has lowered tensions. It has improved the atmosphere. But clearly it is just that, a first step, and we're going to need to see some follow-up actions between China and ASEAN."

The Clinton-Yang meeting appeared friendly, which was seen as unusual given that Beijing just last week angrily condemned the White House meeting between Obama and the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, which China claims as a province. The matter was not mentioned in public, although a Chinese spokesman said afterward that Yang had raised the importance of respecting China's "sovereignty and territorial integrity," including Tibet.

The U.S. and China are also both major players with significant stakes in the resumption of dialogue between North and South Korea and six-nation talks aimed at convincing the North to give up its nuclear weapons program.

On that front, North Korea on Friday announced it had appointed a new top envoy to the six-party talks that include the North and the South, China, Japan, Russia and the United States. And, the North and South agreed to hold a working-level meeting on the sidelines of the annual ASEAN Regional Forum on Friday, their first public discussion in months. The North, which stands to get badly needed aid and other concessions if it returns to the six-party talks, has indicated in recent months that it might be ready.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Terror site's Sydney Opera House pic prompts alert

SYDNEY (AP)—Police on Thursday cautioned Australians to be vigilant after an al-Qaida-linked online magazine published a picture of Sydney's iconic Opera House, and expressed concern about its influence on the local Islamic community. Police are unclear about the significance of the Sydney Opera House photograph appearing in the latest issue of Inspire, an English-language online magazine published by associates of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The picture was carried without any comment or reference point. The photo came to police attention after it was posted earlier this week, and local media reported on it Thursday. The magazine cover features a picture of late al-Qaida leader Osama Bin Laden.

Army: Gunmen kill Indonesia soldier in Papua

JAYAPURA, Indonesia (AP)—Unidentified gunmen ambushed Indonesian soldiers and killed one of them Thursday in the easternmost province of Papua, a military officer said. Maj. Gen. Erfi Triassunu, the army chief in Papua, said the attackers ambushed a group of soldiers outside a village in the hilly district of Puncak Jaya. The soldiers were attacked while taking their food supplies near the district capital of Mulia, Triassunu said, adding that soldiers are still chasing the gunmen. He identified the victim as a first private who died instantly after being hit by a gunshot to his head, No information was available on the other soldiers.

India succeeds in testing quick-reaction missile

NEW DELHI (AP)—India successfully tested a new quick-reaction tactical missile Thursday and will use it in battlefield support for the army, the Defense Ministry said. The surface-to-surface "Prahaar" missile —which means "attack" in Hindi —can carry a variety of warheads weighing up to 440 pounds (200 kilograms) and hit targets 93 miles (150 kilometers) away. The Defense Ministry said the missile was tested successfully off the coast of India's eastern Orissa state. Within 205 seconds the missile "achieved terminal accuracy of less than 10 meters," or 33 feet.

Man gets life for killing British teacher in Japan

CHIBA, Japan (AP)—A man was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for raping and killing a young British teacher in Japan four years ago, closing one of the country's highest-profile criminal cases after he evaded arrest for years and even cut his face to avoid being identified. The Chiba District Court ordered Tatsuya Ichihashi to spend life behind bars for killing 22-year-old English teacher Lindsay Hawker, whose body was found in a dirt-filled bathtub on Ichihashi's apartment balcony outside Tokyo. The judge said Ichihashi showed no respect for her life and committed a heinous crime but at age 32, still has a slight chance of being rehabilitated. He could have been sentenced to death by hanging.

World

Libya rebels say Brega oil installations boobytrapped

MADRID (AP)—Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi's troops have boobytrapped petroleum installations in the strategic oil port of Brega so they can be blown up if his regime loses the town, a top rebel official said Thursday.

The Libyan leader also delivered yet another defiant speech in which he didn't foresee any talks with rebels between now and the end of time.

"I will not speak to them, there will be no words between us until the Day of Judgement," Gadhafi said in a speech addressing crowds in his hometown of Sirte in the center of the country. "It is the voice of the Libyan people, free and defiant, that will respond to them."

The address is the latest in a series of speeches accompanied by large rallies in different cities across the country over the past week to bolster support for the regime in the face of international backing for the rebels.

Mahmoud Jibril, the rebels' diplomatic chief, said Gadhafi's forces have boobytrapped oil fields. He did not state which fields. Although Brega is a key oil processing and shipment hub, the fields that feed it lie far to the south in the Libyan desert. It does, however, contain massive containers filled with oil and natural gas read to be offloaded onto ships.

"Unfortunately, Brega is a big minefield right now," Jibril told reporters after meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez. "We discovered that they planted mines all over the place. Even some oil establishments, some oil fields, have been full of bombs, explosives."

Rebels and pro-Gadhafi forces have been locked in a stalemate, despite a NATO air campaign against Gadhafi's forces. Rebels hold most of eastern Libya, but their push to seize Brega since last week unraveled Tuesday when 27 rebels were killed in shelling by Gadhafi's troops.

With the NATO-led air campaign entering its fifth month, Britain's military reported its first death related to the campaign after an airman died in a traffic accident in southern Italy. The Ministry of Defense said Thursday that an airman from the Royal Air Force's No. 2 Squadron died in the Abruzzo region when his vehicle went off the road.

AP

In this photo taken on a government-organized tour, a journalist inspects a building that Libyan officials say was destroyed in an airstrike, near the town of Zlitan, roughly 160 kilometers (99 miles) east of Tripoli, Libya, Thursday, July 21, 2011.

WORLD BRIEFS

James Murdoch contradicted by his ex-legal manager

LONDON (AP)—James Murdoch's former legal adviser and a former editor contested the testimony he gave to British lawmakers, saying Thursday he was told years ago about an email that suggested the rot at his Sunday tabloid was far more widespread than previously claimed. Their statement could deal a blow to the credibility of Rupert Murdoch's son as the family struggles to limit the damage from a phone-hacking scandal that has already cost the media empire one of its British tabloids, two top executives and a billion-dollar bid for control of a satellite broadcaster.

Yemen says senior al-Qaida member killed

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A senior leader of Yemen's al-Qaida branch has been killed in fighting in the nearly lawless south of the country, the Defense Ministry said on Thursday. A ministry statement said Ayed al-Shabwani was killed in fighting on Tuesday near the town of Zinjibar, a provincial capital that has been held by al-Qaida-linked militants since May. The statement said one of the leader's cousins, Awad al-Shabwani, was also killed in the fighting, but it gave no further details. Ayed al-Shabwani has been on the government's list of most-wanted al-Qaida linked militants.

Former Canadian commander enters guilty plea

MONTREAL (AP)—The former chief of Canadian forces in Afghanistan who was dismissed from his post after being accused of having an alleged sexual affair with a subordinate was fined more than $7,400 after pleading guilty to two charges Thursday. Retired Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, 45, entered the pleas while facing court martial in Montreal. Menard was once a rising star in the army and was the No. 1 military man in Afghanistan before his career unraveled. The married father of two was charged with two counts of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline under the National Defense Act. Military regulations bar soldiers, even married couples, from having intimate relations while on deployment.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, July 23, 2011

Over half million Pinoys became citizens of eight OECD countries

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—About 521,253 Filipinos became naturalized citizens of eight countries that are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

OECD's 2011 International Migration Outlook bared that 386,739 Filipinos became naturalized citizens of the United States from 2000 to 2009.

Also, 109,909 Filipinos became naturalized Canadians; 8,246 became naturalized citizens of New Zealand; 2,898 became naturalized Norwegians; and 2,349 became Dutch during the same ten-year period.

From 2001 to 2008, 6,316 Filipinos became citizens of Spain while 4,152 became citizens of Korea.

And from 2005 to 2009, 644 Filipinos became citizens of Ireland.

For the year 2009, based on the number of naturalized citizens, Filipinos are the second-highest naturalized foreign nationals in Ireland (410); third-highest in the United States (38,934) and Canada (11,068); seventh-highest in New Zealand (708); eighth in Norway (445); and 13th in the Netherlands (308).

As of 2008 data, Filipinos are the ninth-highest number of naturalized foreign nationals in Spain (782) and the third highest in Korea (579).

The OECD report bares varied regulations how foreigners can acquire nationality, including how long the process takes.

State cancels illegal immigrant reporter's license

By MANUEL VALDES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and immigration reform activist Jose Antonio Vargas, who recently revealed that he is an undocumented immigrant, third from left, leaves a Senate subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security hearing regarding the DREAM Act, Tuesday, June 28, 2011, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

SEATTLE (AP)—Washington state has canceled the driver's license of a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who publicly said he is an illegal immigrant.

Officials opened an investigation after Jose Antonio Vargas' essay about his background was published in the *New York Times Magazine* in June, Department of Licensing spokeswoman Christine Anthony said Thursday.

Vargas, who is from the Philippines, wrote in the essay that he obtained a driver's license in Washington earlier this year after his Oregon license expired.

"We conducted in an investigation and concluded that he wasn't residing at the address he provided us," Anthony said.

The Licensing Department sent Vargas a letter requesting proof of residency, and the letter was returned. The state canceled his license July 18.

In his essay, Vargas wrote about worrying that his Oregon license would expire when he turned 30.

"Early this year, just two weeks before my 30th birthday, I won a small reprieve: I obtained a driver's license in the state of Washington. The license is valid until 2016. This offered me five more years of acceptable identification—but also five more years of fear, of lying to people I respect and institutions that trusted me, of running away from who I am," Vargas wrote.

Because Vargas didn't surrender his license, he will still have a card that he presumably can still use to board an airplane or obtain other services that require ID. But if authorities run a background check, for example if Vargas gets pulled over while driving, it will show that the license is not valid, Anthony said.

The *Seattle Times* first reported the Licensing Department's action Thursday.

Vargas wrote in his essay that he emigrated from the Philippines in 1993 when he was 12 years old at the wish of his mother. He moved to California, where his grandparents had arranged forged documents for him. When he was 16, Vargas wrote, he found out that he was in the country illegally after he tried to obtain a driver's permit with those documents.

Vargas was part of the *Washington Pos*t team that won the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre. He had also interned for *The San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and most recently was a senior contributing editor at *Huffington Post.*

His coming out as an illegal immigrant attracted national attention and put a spotlight on what his former employers knew of his legal status. A *Washington Post* spokesman called Vargas' actions "wrong."

But he wrote that he's tired of hiding his secret and has launched a campaign called Define American to use stories of immigrants like him to urge Congress and the Obama administration to pursue immigration reform. His high school principal and superintendent have signed on as board members.

Vargas did not respond to an email sent by The Associated Press. A spokesman pointed to a blog post on Vargas' campaign website in which he said he learned Wednesday that his license had been revoked and it was a reminder of the "collective struggle" immigrants like him face.

"It's not unexpected, given how I laid out in detail how I've been able to live, work and survive as an undocumented immigrant in our country," he said. "Still, it's a sad feeling. In some ways, my driver's license has been my life line."

He continued, "However, I believe it is a small price to pay relative to the big things we're going to do, together."

Washington and New Mexico are the two states that don't require driver's license applicants to furnish a Social Security number.

Washington's Department of Licensing said last week that fewer out-of-state people who didn't provide a Social Security number have sought to obtain a driver's license in the state. Recent data suggest stricter rules Washington implemented in the past year are deterring illegal immigrants from getting licenses.

Money from highly-skilled OFWs drops sharply in 2010

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—Remittance flows from professionals and from technicians and associate professionals plummeted sharply in calm 2010 after rising markedly in crisis-laden 2009, a government survey showed.

Data from the annual Survey on Overseas Filipinos of the National Statistics Office showed that from the P16.5 billion remittances from professionals in crisis-hit 2009, their remittances went down to P13.512 billion in 2010 (or a drop of 18.11 percent)

Technicians and associate professionals' remittances also suffered the same fate: after rising to P11.216 billion in 2009, this occupational group's remittances dropped to P8.558 billion in 2010 (a drop by 23.7 percent year-on-year).

The 2010 estimated remittance volumes from these two occupational groups was almost near their remittance levels in 2008, the year when the global economic crisis started (especially during the third quarter that year).

Remittances from professionals and from technicians and associate professionals were P13.237 billion and P8.452 billion, respectively.

Out of the 2.043 million OFWs the 2010 SOF estimated, professionals make up 9.9 percent (about 202,000) and technicians and associate professionals 5.6 percent (about 114,000).

In the 2009 SOF where there were 1.912 million OFWs, professionals and technicians and associate professionals make up 10.1 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively, of the total number.

Meanwhile, the top three remitting occupational groups went back up in 2010 after falling in 2009.

The leading occupational group, "laborers and unskilled workers," sent home P20.561 billion in 2010—higher than the P18.033 billion in 2009 and the P19.491 billion in 2008.

The second-highest remitting occupational grouping, "plant and machine operators and assemblers," sent home P18.505 billion in 2010. This is a rebound from the 2009 level of P17.356 billion and the 2008 level of P15.55 billion.

The third-highest grouping, "trades and related workers," sent home P18.45 billion in 2010. This same group sent home P17.334 billion in 2009 and P18.065 billion in 2008.

These results are an indication of how the global economic crisis impacted on overseas Filipino workers' abilities to send money to loved ones, said University of Santo Tomas economist Alvin Ang.

On the remittance volumes of professionals and technicians in the years 2009 and 2010, Ang conjectured that these migrants might have sent their savings to family members. The volumes for 2010 of these two occupational groups "isn't surprising," Ang said.

Ang added the results of the SOF, especially the 2010 round that was released last week by the National Statistics Office, show that high-skilled workers have not been the top-remitting OFWs all along "as what the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas always says".

Previous years of press releases of the BSP always attribute the rising remittance volumes largely to the money coming from professionals. The last press release that this was mentioned was August 16, 2010, reporting for the six-month remittance levels for the year 2010.

But since then, succeeding BSP press releases mention that "the major driving factors that helped accelerate the growth (of) remittances were the diversity of the destinations and the skills of overseas Filipinos."

Even if these two occupational groups of OFWs get the highest salaries per capita, Ang said the 2010 deployment data of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) can give cues for this declining remittance volume from high-skilled OFWs.

After the grouping "professional, technical, medical and related workers" had 49,649 new-hire OFWs deployed in 2008, the number plummeted to 47,886 in 2009 and 41,835 in 2010.

And it is "service workers," where domestic workers are found, that carried the Philippines, said Ang. POEA new-hire deployment data showed that 154,535 new-hire service workers were deployed in 2010 (an all-time high).

However, the data from the SOF on laborers and unskilled workers also reveal that many countries "are not following the US$400 minimum wage set for domestic workers," Ang said.

Arroyo wants plunder charges dismissed

By 990AM, ERWIN AGUILON, TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Former president, now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo went to the Department of Justice (DoJ) to seek the dismissal of the P500 million plunder case filed against her by former Solicitor-General Francisco Chavez, a report on 990AM said Friday.

In an interview, Arroyo's lawyer Benjamin Santos said their counter-affidavit contained two points.

First, the case should be dismissed because a similar one that has was filed with the Office of the Ombudsman was dismissed.

He said that the Ombudsman has primary jurisdiction and has acted on the case.

"Once the Ombudsman has acted on a case, it can no longer be reviewed by the DoJ…This has no more legal procedural basis," Santos said.

"This is to avoid the situation where the Ombudsman and the DoJ will be coming up with conflicting decision, the purpose here is for the orderly administration of justice," he said.

A second point is that the complaint has no basis, Santos said.

Arroyo, together with former Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, former president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and OWWA Administrator Virgilio Angelo have been accused of plunder, Qualified Theft, violation of the Omnibus Election Code, and Republic Acts 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) and 3019 or the Anti-Graft Law by Chavez before the DoJ last April.

Chavez, in his complaint, said Arroyo approved the diversion of some P533,082,446 OWWA Medicare Fund to the PHIC as recommended by Duque.

Based on the draft Executive Order which was attached by Chavez to the complaint, the purpose of the diversion of funds was to have "significant bearing in the 2004 elections" when Arroyo ran for president.

That same draft EO stated that it would also be significant to "President's desire to provide health insurance to 8-million indigents by end of 2003."

The DoJ will conduct a preliminary investigation first on the complaint filed by Chavez to determine if there is sufficient ground for a case in court and hold a trial for the respondents.

JESS YUSON
Former President Arroyo and husband Mike Arroyo return home via KLM from Amsterdam and other points unknown amid the loudest whispers that they may have fled to escape the multi-corruption cases and poll fraud allegations against them.

Palace: Virgilio Garcillano to tell all

»Gloria Arroyo 'phone pal' sending feelers to Malacañang

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Aquino administration is forming a virtual "who's who" of poll manipulators to be topbilled by Virgilio Garcillano, the voice behind the "Hello Garci" scandal, in a fresh bid to prosecute former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a phone interview, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas said that Garcillano, a former election commissioner, had sent feelers to Malacañang expressing his willingness to finally "tell all" against Arroyo.

Llamas, however, refused to elaborate, stressing that Malacañang never sought out Garcillano, whose potential blockbuster could be the latest in a series of revelations pinning down Arroyo from accused mass murderer Zaldy Ampatuan and newly surrendered fugitive Lintang Bedol.

"There are other witnesses coming out including Garcillano. We are waiting for them. We are planning to create a body of whistleblowers, a legitimate group to testify against Arroyo," Llamas said.

Bedol, a former election supervisor in Maguindanao, surfaced on Tuesday after four years in hiding. He submitted an affidavit to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) purportedly detailing the rigging of the 2004 and 2007 balloting in Maguindanao province, allegedly on Arroyo's orders.

Ampatuan, a former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao detained in connection with the massacre of 58 people in Maguindanao in 2009, earlier last week accused Arroyo, in television interviews and unsigned affidavits, of masterminding vote-shaving and vote-padding operations in the two elections.

Ampatuan has offered to turn state witness and testify in the massacre against his father, former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., and brother Andal Jr. The three are in jail, along with 76 others accused in the worst case of political violence in the nation's history.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, who facilitated Bedol's surrender on Friday, claimed that three other witnesses in the election cheating were set to come forward and corroborate Bedol's testimony.

Closure needed

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda on Wednesday said Garcillano could shed light on allegations that Arroyo stole the 2004 vote from actor-turned-politician Fernando Poe Jr., allegedly exposed in bugged telephone conversations.

"We need closure and closure can be done by the perpetrators themselves," Lacierda said in an interview with reporters.

"Garci was the one. The 'Hello Garci' thing had a very massive impact on the legitimacy of the Arroyo government. And certainly if Mr. Garcillano can reveal the truth, wouldn't it be better for Filipinos to have closure in this issue?" he added.

"Certainly, the truth should come out (on) who really won in the 2004 and 2007 elections. Of course, we need to know because when you cheat in elections, you rob the people of their mandate," Lacierda said.

Declining popularity

Raul Lambino, Arroyo's lawyer, has said the series of fresh accusations against the former President and now Pampanga representative was part of a Malacañang offensive to lift the declining popularity rating of President Aquino before his State of the Nation Address on Monday.

Lacierda said Lambino knew that Arroyo was being "backed up against a corner."

"We know that the noose is tightening and that's why he's talking and he's trying to misdirect the whole situation and trying to taint whatever revelation we would come up with," Lacierda said.

Lacierda was asked if Malacañang supported the possibility raised by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima of placing Arroyo on the Bureau of Immigration watch list to prevent her from leaving the country in the face of charges against her.

He said there was basis for De Lima in considering this and added that the Palace would defer to her.

Credible witness

Lacierda said Bedol appeared to be a credible witness. "I think the fact that his name was mentioned in the Garci tapes, that makes him a party who was fully aware of what was going on in the poll fraud and that makes him a source who may appear to be credible," he said.

He denied an Inquirer report attributed to a source that said that P30 million had been offered to Bedol to surface and pin down Arroyo and another P50 million was dangled to Garcillano to do the same thing.

"We're not like that," Lacierda said.

He also denied that Robredo orchestrated Bedol's coming out, saying that the interior secretary was not a "stage manager or agent."

'Too late'

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Lambino said Malacañang was aware that authorities could no longer go after his client in connection with the 2004 balloting.

"It's too late," Lambino said. "The law states that cases must be filed within five years from the commission of the election offense."

"What they're doing now is to just shame her before the media," he said. "The issue will be a convenient cover for President Aquino's Sona—his 'state of no accomplishment'—on Monday."

Lambino downplayed the allegations made by Bedol, saying these were "hearsay, speculative" unless corroborated.

He also said that Bedol would be a questionable witness in the 2004 scandal, noting that he was assigned elsewhere, not in Maguindanao, at the time.

Lambino said that even if the Maguindanao votes were removed, Arroyo would still have won.

Trip to Lourdes

The lawyer also brushed aside Malacañang's suggestion that Arroyo had sought political asylum on her last trip to Europe, which included a stop at the miraculous Lourdes shrine in France.

"This is not well known to the public, but Mrs. Arroyo has a very strong faith, she is very spiritual," Lambino told Radyo Inquirer.

Former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos on Wednesday advised the government to take Bedol's statements "with caution."

"They won't hold water unless corroborated," Abalos told the Inquirer. "Let's not take these hook, line and sinker."

Sen. Francis Escudero, pressing a proposal to conduct a fact-finding inquiry into the 2004 balloting for the sake of history, on Wednesday said Arroyo's refusal to participate in such an exercise could be addressed with technology.

2 kidnapped Americans allowed to talk to family

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants holding an American woman and her son in the southern Philippines allowed them to talk briefly to their family in the United States as proof they were alive and to press a ransom demand, two security officials said.

The cellphone call to the U.S. was traced from southern Basilan province, where Abu Sayyaf gunmen were suspected to have brought Philippine-born U.S. citizen Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann, her 14-year-old son and 19-year-old Filipino nephew after seizing them at gunpoint Tuesday from a nearby island village, the two senior Philippine officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Government forces have been deployed to ensure the captives are not moved far from the mountainous area where they believe up to 100 Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen were holding the hostages, one of the officials told The Associated Press by telephone.

Kidnappings for ransom have long been a problem in the impoverished region and are blamed mostly on the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, a group also notorious for beheadings and bombings.

U.S.-backed offensives have weakened the group, which is blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, but it remains a key security threat.

Mayor Celso Lobregat of southern Zamboanga City said without elaborating earlier that U.S. authorities have informed Philippine officials that the kidnappers called the captives' family and demanded money.

Lobregat declined to disclose other details, including if the kidnappers identified themselves.

"There was a call to the family, and a demand was made," Lobregat told The AP.

Regional police commander Felicisimo Khu Jr. said investigators were aware of the huge ransom demand.

Lunsmann, a 41-year-old veterinarian who lives in Virginia, was born to a Muslim family in a village on Sacol Island off Zamboanga, where she and her son were vacationing with relatives when they were snatched, Khu said.

She was adopted by an American couple as a child and grew up in the United States. She has visited her Philippine home province at least five times before, Khu said.

Khu said authorities suspect the captives were being held in Basilan by at least three groups of gunmen led by Abu Sayyaf commanders Nurhassan Jamiri and Puruji Indama, who have been blamed for previous abductions and beheadings of hostages.

There was suspicion earlier that the captives may have been brought to southern Zamboanga Sibugay province, where some of the kidnappers, former Muslim rebels from another group, are based, Khu said, citing intelligence.

The last time Americans were held hostage in the southern Philippines was in 2001, when Abu Sayyaf militants kidnapped three Americans and 17 Filipinos from a western Philippine resort then took them by speedboat to Basilan, about 550 miles (880 kilometers) south of Manila.

One of the Americans was beheaded in Basilan. A second American was wounded but rescued while her husband was killed in an army rescue in the Zamboanga Peninsula a year after they were abducted. Since then, hundreds of U.S. troops have been helping train and arm local troops battling the Abu Sayyaf.

Spratly islanders fight boredom, not China worries

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAG-ASA ISLAND, South China Sea (AP)—This speck of a sun-splashed island in the turquoise South China Sea has little sign of the tensions that have consumed politicians and diplomats in distant Asian capitals.

Six different nations are pressing their stake to all or part of these potentially oil- and gas-rich waters teeming with fish. Most recently, the Philippines and Vietnam have been wrangling with China in a noisy territorial dispute that is dominating this week's Asian security forum in Bali.

And yet, here on Pag-asa, the only sounds are the waves slapping the shore and the wind whistling in the ears. At high noon, fighting off sleep is a struggle.

There are no cars, newspapers, Internet connections or shopping malls on an island that mostly consists of a single gravel airstrip and some structures. This, one of the nine islands, reefs and shoals occupied by Philippine troops, is also claimed by China, whose looming presence and rising military power is a worry for outgunned neighbors.

Two Filipino police officers, looking bored, say there hasn't been a single crime for years.

"One big problem really is how to kill time," said Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr. of Kalayaan town, which includes far-flung Pag-asa.

"After fishing, walking around, playing billiards and cards, what else can one do next?" wondered the bespectacled mayor.

The tadpole-shaped, 91-acre (37-hectare) Pag-asa, or 'hope' in the Tagalog language, is the biggest of the Philippine-held islands in the South China Sea's Spratlys archipelago. Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam also claim the islands.

The battle for ownership has settled into an uneasy standoff since the last fighting, involving China and Vietnam, killed more than 70 Vietnamese sailors in 1988.

Tensions flared again this year after the Philippines and Vietnam separately accused China of encroaching into their territorial waters, sabotaging oil exploration and harassing fishermen. China, which claims the entire South China Sea on historical grounds, acknowledges some of the incidents in what it says are its waters, and Beijing has warned other claimants to stop exploring for oil and gas without its permission.

The incidents, accusations and feelings of hurt national pride carried over to Bali and this week's meeting of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. On Wednesday, China announced it was ready to firm up existing nonbinding guidelines for behavior in the contested waters.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario balked, saying the guidelines have no teeth and that his country plans to take China to a U.N. tribunal that handles maritime border disputes.

And at the opening of Vietnam's National Assembly on Thursday, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung talked tough too, saying Hanoi will "resolutely and comprehensively ... implement measures to defend the country's sovereignty, protect fishermen, economic and trade activities and protect oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities under its sovereign seas."

AP

Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command commander Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban, right, Kalayaan municipality Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon, 2nd right, and Philippine Congressman Walden Bello, 3rd right, walk along the shores of Pagasa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Washington says it is ready to play a role to peacefully resolve the row, but China has warned the U.S. to stay away.

On Pag-asa, where about few dozen people live since the Philippine government lured civilians starting in 1978 with free food and other incentives, the worrisome rhetoric has reached through news from satellite TV or by cellphones—although the signal is often cut by bad weather, poor infrastructure or unpaid bills.

It takes days to reach Pag-asa by boat across often-turbulent waters from the nearest Philippine municipality in Palawan province, about 300 miles (480 kilometers) to the east.

One family fled in fear last month but the rest stayed.

A longtime resident, Obnor Lenasic, said the news does not bother villagers. He said nationals from rival claimants have learned to live together in the disputed region. They wave at each other when their fishing boats cross at sea. Filipinos sometimes barter coconut for Chinese cigarettes, he said.

In the past, Chinese and Vietnamese forces would fire warning shots in the air when others get near their islands. Filipinos would raise fish on skewers to signal that they were just fishing. The soldiers would smile and spread their palm to beg for some of the catch, Bito-onon said.

Another resident, Aisa Bilidan, said she named her baby daughter born on Pag-asa last March China-lyn, after the Philippines accused Beijing of being a bully.

Except for a few rusting anti-aircraft guns, their turrets capped by plastic to avoid damage from the salty air, and the presence of troops, Pag-asa resembles a typical Philippine rural village—serene and backward.

Four Filipino lawmakers Wednesday defied protests from the Chinese Embassy in Manila and flew to the island, carrying with them two new Philippine flags to replace a tattered one flapping in the breeze.

The lawmakers asked the villagers about their concerns but nobody mentioned the Spratlys dispute. One wanted a better grass-cutter to clear an airstrip of weeds. Another sought a Jeep to move things around the community, and a soldier appealed for help in repairing a desalinating machine for drinking water.

Bito-onon told the lawmakers that turning Pag-asa into a bustling civilian community, with sustainable livelihood in fishing and tourism, would be the strongest argument for the Philippine territorial claim.

He told The Associated Press on Thursday that he was working on a solution to lure more people and tourists to the remote island: an Internet connection, which he hopes to set up with government help in the near future.

"I think it will help if people know that after a nice swim on the island, they can take a break and connect to their Facebook accounts," Bito-onon said. "I have a feeling that that will work."

Associated Press writers Tran Van Minh in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Niniek Karmini in Bali, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

AP

Photographed through the window of a closed aircraft, an aerial view shows Pagasa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines Wednesday July 20, 2011.

Philippines seen to remain No. 3 in global outsourcing

» Revenue to hit $10.7B with market share of 7.4 pct.

By ABIGAIL L. HO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Philippines is seen holding on to the third spot in the global offshoring market, with revenue for the year expected to reach $10.7 billion for a 7.4-percent share of the market.

According to Canada-based research firm XMG Global, India will continue to be the world leader, with an estimated global take of $61.5 billion, or 42.5 percent of offshoring revenue in 2011.

China will come in second with a 31.5-percent share of the pie and $45.7 billion in offshoring revenue.

XMG Global forecasts the global offshoring market to hit $144.8 billion this year. Including onshoring, the overall outsourcing market should register $464 billion in revenue, 9.2 percent better than the $425 billion posted a year ago.

According to XMG Global's mid-year report on the global outsourcing market, industry players in the Philippines and India had started to feel the adverse effects of the weak dollar. Both countries were highly dependent on their United States-based clients for their revenues.

"The US economy, which remains to be a large market for offshoring, is still on the road to recovery with a forecasted 2011 (gross domestic product) growth rate of 2.6 percent, slowing down from last year's 2.9 percent," said XMG Global chief analyst Lauro Vives.

Chinese outsourcing service providers, meanwhile, were hardly swayed, as most of them relied more on East Asian clients such as Korea and Japan. Even the Japan crisis had little effect on China's outsourcing revenue, despite the temporary halt in the implementation of some outsourcing contracts from Japan.

"The disaster may, in fact, open more opportunities, as Japanese companies consider increasing offshoring contracts for non-core operations to reduce business risk," XMG Global said.

According to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines' Road Map 2011-2016, revenues from information technology and business process outsourcing in the country could hit at least $20 billion by 2016 and even as high as $25 billion with stronger public-private partnership.

A $20-billion industry could provide employment to as many as 900,000 individuals. A $25-billion industry, on the other hand, could give jobs to as many as 1.3 million people.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Manny Pacquiao now a game show host

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Amid a shower of confetti, gyrating dancers and an audience screaming for good luck, you'd expect the controversial Willie Revillame to come out and do his thing onstage.

Instead, it was eight-division world boxing champion and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, dapper in a Rajo Laurel outfit, who burst into the spotlight on Saturday night at the premiere of a GMA 7 show at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

It's not your set, folks. Dubbed "Pacman" in boxing circles, the pound-for-pound king, politician, and part-time actor-singer has a new entry in his resumé: game show host.

At the pilot for the show titled "Manny Many Prizes," the ring legend hailed by Filipinos as their "Pambansang Kamao" (Nation's Fist) acquired a new moniker as "Pambansang Ninong" (Nation's Godfather).

For in a way, Pacquiao played ninong as he gave away "aguinaldo," or Christmas presents, months in advance.

All-around talent

Wilma Galvante, the GMA senior vice president for TV Entertainment, said it was Pacquiao's idea to follow up his recently concluded sitcom "Show Me da Manny" with a game show where he can also indulge in his other passion, singing.

The director, Louie Ignacio, said Pacman had proven to be an all-around entertainer who could easily follow instructions and put on a good show despite his exhaustion and lack of sleep.

"He's intelligent and able to memorize the blocking quickly," Ignacio noted.

"I just want to help our countrymen," Pacquiao told the Inquirer in Filipino, adding that he himself came up with the show's concept and title.

He conceded that being dubbed "ninong" to his millions of fans comes with a huge responsibility. "But that's OK. I can do it. It's inspiring."

House and lot

For his opening salvo, Pacman gave away prizes worth over P2 million, including a house-and-lot package that went to 61-year-old stroke survivor Vito Roldan.

He also awarded a fast-food kiosk business worth P60,000 to a high-school dropout.

Galvante said Pacquiao, being a coproducer of the show, would have a share in its revenues. Apart from hosting, his job includes finding sponsors for the prizes, she added.

"He's very involved in the project and has genuine concern for others," Galvante said. "It depends on Manny and the sponsors if the show will give away bigger prizes next time."

The show airs every Saturday and is being pitted by GMA against "Will Time Big Time," a game show hosted by Revillame on TV5.

Brewing rivalry

But Pacquiao maintained that he was "not challenging Willie" to a mano a mano for ratings. "I don't look at it as competition. In fact, I don't look at the shows on the other networks."

"Willie is my friend," he explained, noting that he had worked closely with Revillame during the presidential campaign of Sen. Manny Villar last year.

RICHARD REYES

Boxing superstar and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao hands over money to contestants during the first airing of his game show "Manny Many Prizes" at the AFP Theater in Quezon City.

Pacquiao said other networks should consider his new project a welcome development because "it's good that there are more people who have game shows that help our countrymen."

But isn't a rivalry inevitable? "We'll see," Galvante said. "It all depends on Manny."

Till then, Pacquiao seemed content just relishing the moment.

"I got goose bumps when I saw the crowd," he said. "I hope we could hold it in a bigger venue. I hope we could do this every day."

No more stampedes

Still, the inaugural episode of "Manny Many Prizes" on Saturday was not without hitches. One game, for example, was discontinued when the crowd grew unruly and Pacquiao had to step in to appeal for calm and order.

Organizers apparently made sure there won't be a repeat of the 2006 stampede that marred Revillame's show "Wowowee" on ABS-CBN, in which 78 people were crushed to death at the gates of PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Marshals and other production staff members were posted all over AFP Theater to look after the safety of the contestants and spectators.

After the show, paramedics were put on standby near Roldan, the stroke victim who won the house and lot, as a news crew approached him for an interview. A nurse took his blood pressure as he fielded questions.

The new homeowner actually didn't win in the final round of the game, but Pacquiao nonetheless decided to give him the top prize.

Deserving winners

"When he learned that he just lost, he didn't get sad or upset," Pacman recalled. "He just shrugged it all off and said 'okay.' That made me decide all the more to give the house and lot to him."

Galvante said she hoped that Pacquiao's brand of generosity would make the show stand out from the others.

"He has a clear objective," the network executive said. "He doesn't just want to give doles for [its own] sake. He wants each of the winners to be deserving of the help he's extending to them. He wants each winner to share a story that would be uplifting to the viewers, too."

She said the show would avoid promoting the so-called "culture of mendicancy."

Onstage, Roldan told Pacman that his children had already abandoned him in his condition, a revelation that prompted the host to remind the audience to "love and honor your parents, so that when you grow old your children would take care of you, too."

Humble beginnings

When another contestant shared that she hailed from Calamba City in Laguna, Pacquiao remarked that he once worked as a construction worker there. "I also sold sampaguita (flowers) and pan de sal (in that province)," he recalled.

When another contestant mentioned the town of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, the rags-to-riches sports hero recounted that he used to go to a "baile or disco" there as a young man.

Pacquiao later explained that he brought up his humble beginnings on the show "to inspire the audience."

"All that I said there really happened. I want the viewers to realize the value of hard work. I also came from nothing. But I didn't give up despite our poverty," he told the Inquirer.

Galvante also said the network was planning to take the show on the road. "We will visit Cebu, other provinces and hopefully other countries—everywhere where there are Filipinos."

Claudine & Raymart: This marriage is fine, thank you

This is a tad more than letting off steam. Claudine Barretto, of late a favorite moving target on show-biz gossip row, squares off with critics and trades barbs with some of them via a confession-style interview.

Claudine is on the cover of the August issue of *Star Studio*, which hits the stands this week.

Published by ABS-CBN, the home network that she left less than two years ago for rival station GMA 7, the magazine gives the actress enough space to clarify sticky issues, including why she bailed after two decades as a Kapamilya.

Unblinkingly, Claudine talks about three men romantically linked to her in the past year: Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang and Martin Castro, a close friend of her husband's. Ang was a close associate of deposed President Joseph Estrada and Claudine was reportedly seen with him at the Resorts World gaming complex in Newport City, Pasay.

She tells *Star Studio* that, at the height of the rumor linking her to Castro, Ang helped prevent a legal skirmish between her and husband, Raymart Santiago, on one hand, and Castro and wife, Cris, on the other. Claudine says a sister-in-law who worked for Ang laid the groundwork, and that Ang was a friend of Martin's father, Mayor Reinaldo Castro of Balagtas, Bulacan (the official who was said to have wed Derek Ramsay and a 21-year-old Fil-Indian girl in 2002).

Yes, Claudine says, she was in Resorts World "one or two times" with Raymart, to meet Ang during that period. The Newport sightings generated parallel talk that Claudine had a gambling addiction. She flatly denies this. *"Tong-its nga, hindi ako marunong, e."*

She also denies going to drug rehab, another persistent rumor: "I see a psychiatrist, I'm not ashamed of that, but I have no reason to do drugs."

Raymart irked

Claudine recounts running into Jinggoy Estrada on a few occasions. She says she went to the birthday party of Tirso Cruz III's wife, Lyn, last year,

Claudine Barretto

which Estrada hosted. One of her (Claudine's) bridesmaids, Bien Co, wife of Bobby Andrews, works for the senator. And at the October 2010 wedding of her good friend, Jenny Miller, Claudine and Jinggoy were among the principal sponsors.

Laments Claudine: "You just go to a party, all of a sudden, the other woman *ka na. Hindi ba nakakahiya?"*

Raymart, a quiet man, famously blew his top at a party where he was asked by the movie press if he and his wife had indeed separated. His retort: "Only the devil makes up stories like that one." They're okay, the couple insist. "Raymart and I go to counseling, it's not something we hide," Claudine says. "But at the end of the day, we're home, together. *Sino'ng dapat paniwalaan?"*

Home is shared with (adopted) daughter Sabina, 7, and son Santino, 4. Once a movie-star showcase, the magazine notes, the house has been altered to suit the growing kids' needs. Certified doting parents, Raymart and Claudine built a playhouse near the pool and, more recently, a mini-study center.

In the SS interview, Claudine admits she left ABS-CBN because "the projects were few and far between [and] I no longer had a contract." The project conceived for her and Gretchen took too long to take off, Claudine says, and she couldn't wait. She moved to GMA 7 in late 2009.

For the record, she points out, "I talked to my ABS-CBN bosses beforehand. I will forever be grateful to them and look back on my roots…they are my roots."

As prized Kapamilya property from 1992 up till she left, Claudine was not just queen of soaps, she was queen of the lot. "But I really couldn't stay," she says. "Without a contract—and they were not offering one—I was operating on loyalty; there was no security. If you're an artist, you have to secure yourself, especially when you have a family."

Speaking of families, Claudine tells SS, theirs—on both sides—have proven to be the most dependable refuge. "Mama Cheling (Cielito Legaspi Santiago, Raymart's mom) will just say, *'Bakit may mga ganung chismis?'* But she's on our side, no question about it."

Raymart himself is unshakable: "I value our wedding vows and hold on to them. There is no perfect marriage. Obstacles present themselves to everyone; the best part is hurdling them together."

(Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Maharlika – Opinyon

Flag waving in the Spratlys

A delegation of five Filipino congressmen landed on a disputed island in the Spratly chain on Wednesday in a melodramatic assertion of the Philippine claim to what it calls "Pagasa" island, despite warnings from China that the trip would destabilize the region and harm relations between Beijing and Manila.

To heighten tensions arising from contending claims by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan on parts, if not all, of the Spratlys, in the sea, also called by the Philippines as West Philippine Sea, the delegation arrived on Thitu island, the largest of the Philippine-occupied islands and raised two Philippine flags at a municipal government building, declaring the island "Philippine territory," and vowing that Filipinos were "ready to defend the territory."

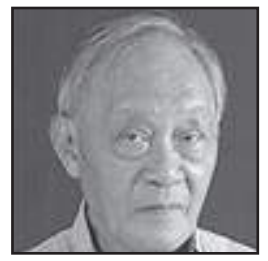
But while Akbayan Rep. Walden F. Bello declared that the delegation came on a historic mission "to promote a peaceful solution" to the territorial dispute, he spoke with belligerent words, saying that although "we support a diplomatic solution … let there be no doubt in anybody's mind, in any foreign power's mind, that if they dare to eject us from Pagasa … Filipinos will not take that sitting down. Filipinos are willing to die for their soil."

He spoke to about 80 Filipinos who live on Thitu, which covers in area of about seven hectares and lies about 450 kilometers northwest of Palawan. His audience included 60 Filipino residents, as well as soldiers, police, Coast Guard personnel and government employees.

Who authorized congressmen to proclaim or reiterate Philippine sovereignty on behalf of the government is a matter of conjecture, but it is clear the congressmen visited the Spratlys on their own initiative.

While no one can stop them from playing patriots, in the Philippine constitutional scheme of things, it is fairly established that foreign policy initiatives and their implementation come from the executive department, not from the legislative department.

Whether or not the congressmen cleared their visit to the Spratlys with President Aquino or whether the administration was informed about it beforehand is subject to speculation, but the government is washing its hands regarding the trip. What's undeniable is that the trip dragged the government into an issue with China.



Analysis
By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Beijing didn't take the visit lightly. The Chinese Embassy in Manila criticized the trip, saying, "It serves no purpose but to undermine peace and stability in the region and sabotage the China-Philippines relationship."

On China's objection to the visit, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda made an ambiguous statement.

He said, "My understanding is that they visited our own territory, so they are not doing anything in violation of international law."

He invoked the provision on a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"This was a move on the part of the legislators, on their own initiative, to go and visit the Spratlys," he said.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs is in constant discussion with the Chinese Embassy and as much as we recognize concerns over this, we hope that it will not hamper relations between China and the Philippines."

Lacierda reiterated the DFA's position that the Chinese complaint has "no basis."

Philippine officials tried to explain to Chinese Embassy officials that under the Philippine constitutional system, Congress is co-equal with the executive department, hence congressmen were free to decide to visit and to see for themselves conditions in those territories claimed by the Philippines.

This explanation may not be of much help to the Chinese whose system has a highly centralized structure in policy decision-making.

Over the past few months, there have been a series of incidents involving encounters between Chinese patrols and Philippine vessels conducting explorations for oil and minerals in the areas claimed by Manila.

Manila has accused Chinese forces of opening fire on Filipino fishermen in the areas claimed by the Philippines as well as putting up structures in disputed areas apparently as a prelude to the construction of more permanent structures.

The congressmen's visit took place as officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were meeting in Bali, Indonesia, to find diplomatic solutions to the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, which had generated fears that these would escalate into armed conflict.

The maritime dispute has dominated the agenda of the five-day Asean meeting.

Senior Asean officials have agreed on "guidelines for cooperation" in the South China Sea. But diplomats said the agreement was watered down in the search for a compromise.

While the guidelines were hailed publicly as a "significant step" in resolving the disputes, diplomats were reported to have played down their significance, saying they lack specifics.

Liu Zhenmin, China's assistant minister of foreign affairs, said the officials would submit their draft for approval to their ministers.

The guidelines, which have been under negotiations for nearly 10 years, spell out ways to implement a declaration of claimant on the need for a code of conduct to govern activities in the area.

The ultimate objective is for China and Asean to agree on a legally binding "Regional Code for Conduct in the South China Sea," but diplomats considered this goal a distant dream.

This brings us to the question: What purpose did the intervention of Philippine congressmen, through their visit to the Spratlys, serve? On the face of it, it was no more than a flag-waving exercise. The Chinese do not respect such hollow gestures.

EDITORIAL

Lapses and offenses

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It is good to know that Commission on Elections chair Sixto Brillantes has warmed up to the possibility that the truth about the 2004 and 2007 elections may be just around the corner. His appeal to former commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to reveal what he knows about election fraud in those two crucial votes is too timid to our taste, but it's a start.

"Commissioner Garcillano, please come out. Anyway we now have a different administration," he said.

We would have preferred that Brillantes, a leading election lawyer before his appointment to the Comelec, used the considerable powers of his office to force the issue and bring the man widely believed to be at the center of the "Hello, Garci" scandal behind the Arroyo administration's crisis of legitimacy to justice—or at the very least to an encounter with the truth. Not because the Comelec is part of a "different administration"—it is an independent constitutional body—but because the fraud that Garcillano is believed to have engineered may have been the most consequential election offense since Imelda Marcos and her slate stole the elections from Ninoy Aquino and the Lakas ng Bayan candidates in 1978.

It demands closure.

While Garcillano or his principals cannot be charged with the crime of electoral sabotage, which carries a penalty of life imprisonment but was enacted only after the 2004 vote, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can still be held liable for the series of election offenses that Garcillano and company are believed to have committed, to ensure a million-vote margin of victory. (Note that criminal liability in the vote fraud of 2007 has not yet lapsed.)

We agree with Brillantes' view, and we are certain many others do too, that in the case of a president who enjoys the privilege of presidential immunity, the five-year prescription period for any election offense that that president may have committed cannot start until after the privilege of immunity lapses. "It is as simple as saying that when she was president, we could not have filed any case against her because she was immune from suits. So for me, prescription should start on June 30, 2010 when her term expired," Brillantes said.

To assert otherwise is to argue that a president can never be convicted of an election offense, even if the evidence is clear and overwhelming, simply because the five-year prescription period starts and ends within the president's six-year term.

What can be done to hold those responsible for election fraud to account? The Comelec chairman suggests some possibilities, including falsification of public documents and graft—"common crimes," Brillantes said, and therefore "not within our jurisdiction."

Maybe the time has come to consider legislation with stronger penalties against those who commit electoral crimes. On top of several years in prison and perpetual disqualification from political office, maybe those candidates who serve in office because of election fraud should be forced to return every centavo received from public coffers, plus interest.

A new law like this may not be able to bring to justice all the operators responsible for anomalies in the 2004 election, but at least we would have learned the right lessons from it.

In search of 'Russian Mountain'

After reading Antonio Luna's articles in *La Solidaridad*, I once attempted to follow his footsteps in Paris.

Off to the Bois de Boulogne I went in search of the "Montaña Rusa" where he enjoyed himself. It was not there. Was Luna inventing things?

Deep in the park where transvestite hookers lay in wait for their prey, I asked for directions to the "Russian Mountain" and drew laughter because it was not a mountain or a hill, a "montagne russe" was a roller coaster! This was one of my many memorable adventures resulting from mistranslation or misunderstanding of historical texts.

While some people wish that I would be out of work after Rizal's 150th birthday, they do not realize that we have to prepare for more sesquicentennial birthday celebrations of other heroes of that age: Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Emilio Jacinto, Apolinario Mabini, Antonio Luna, and many others unfortunately covered by Rizal's shadow.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I will be busy well into retirement age. Three decades of research made me realize that while most people think we know or should know anything and everything on Rizal, this is far from true. While most of his writings have been preserved and organized, everything else of supplementary value remains largely ignored.

Furthermore, the over-emphasis on Rizal at the expense of other heroes has hampered rather than developed our knowledge of the period.

Almost everything we know of Rizal was compiled and translated from the original Spanish or German into English and Filipino by the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission in 1961 to commemorate his 100th birthday.

Fifty years later we are still using the JRNCC material while the works of other patriots, like Mariano Ponce and Jose Burgos, remain without translation. Thus they are unread by a generation of Filipinos separated from their past because of the Spanish language.

Language can be a bridge or a barrier, and when Spanish was scrapped from our schools we chose the latter and are now paying dearly for it.

Rizal's correspondence, my source for countless columns and lectures, was originally compiled under the direction of Teodoro M. Kalaw in the 1930s as part of a series called "Documentos de la biblioteca nacional de Filipinas" that included the "Epistolario Rizalino," the writings of Mariano Ponce, Apolinario Mabini, Graciano Lopez Jaena, Marcelo H. del Pilar and a biography of Gregorio del Pilar.

Up till recently only the "Epistolario Rizalino" was available in English translation. Only Rizal has been translated into Filipino and all the major Filipino languages.

Kalaw compiled the basic primary source, the five volumes of the "Epistolario Rizalino," in six books because volume 5, the correspondence with Blumentritt, was published in two parts.

The "Epistolario" is out of print but can still be found on eBay or used bookstores but volume 3, for some reason, seems to be the most scarce. These volumes are available online, that is, if you can get the link to work.

Drawn from the "Epistolario," the JRNCC re-arranged Rizal's correspondence into four parts: Correspondence with Family; Correspondence with Blumentritt; Correspondence with the Propaganda Movement; and last but not least "Miscellaneous" for people who didn't fit in the other categories.

Like the "Epistolario," the JRNCC collection of letters has no index, making simple search by name, date or subject unnecessarily difficult. One would think chronological arrangement regardless of author would be the most sensible and useful, but that is how the JRNCC series hindered rather than enhanced our scholarship.

The task ahead, the task that should have been done by Kalaw in the 1930s and by the JRNCC in 1961, and by creators of Rizaliana online in 2011 should be to return to the source of all that we hold true and accept by faith today.

We must review what we have and supplement the "Epistolario" with letters unknown to Kalaw and the JRNCC. Off-hand there are about 50 extant letters that should be included in any new compilation, and another 24 that were offered to the National Library in the 1950s but could not be acquired for lack of funds. These letters are now missing and should be tracked down.

The archeology of Rizaliana has to be undertaken. We must return to the primary sources and trace each and every original manuscript to check the accuracy of transcription, annotation and translation. If left with a transcription we have to verify the source.

The late Esteban de Ocampo once gave me a funny example from his own research experience. Tracing Rizal's travels, he could not locate a place in Germany called "Donnerstag" which Rizal mentioned in a letter to his sister Trinidad on March 11, 1886.

Reproduced in facsimile in the "Epistolario," Rizal wrote the date "March 11" but left out the year and on the upper right hand part of the letter he wrote "Donnerstag."

When Kalaw and his assistants transcribed the letter, they supplied the year in brackets [1886] and also the location "Donnerstag, [Alemania]." De Ocampo found out later that Donnerstag is not an obscure German town but it means "Thursday."

In fairness to Kalaw, such mistakes are rare, but it should alert us to the need for renewed and critical documentary editing. Thus I have my work cut out for me in the next decade.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samut' Sari

Vacation Bible School enjoys good turnout

Senior pastor Greg Dickerman is happy with the turnout for Saipan Community Church's Vacation Bible School last week.

He said the five-day activity, held from July 11 to 15, averaged 88 participants despite the rainy weather.

Participants ranged in age from as young as 3 years old to early teens and all of them enjoyed the VBS' daily dose of fun-filled activities like arts and crafts, games, singing, skits, and memorizing bible verses. Participants were also tasked to take part in daily challenges centered on Bible truths.

Prior to the start of the VBS, organizers set out to raise $200 to donate to a school in the Philippines devastated by floods. Dickersman was happy to announce that they exceeded that with a total of $402.53 raised.

The senior pastor said the weeklong VBS wouldn't have been possible without the help of his wife Sandy, associate pastor Roger Abe, and the more than 50 volunteers who took time off from their busy schedule to help out.

He also extended kudos to Micronesian Brokers, Inc. for donating ice cream during VBS' Friday session. Participants were given certificates for taking part in the VBC last Sunday inside a packed Saipan Community Church. ***(Mark Rabago)***

MARK RABAGO

Participants of Saipan Community Chruch's Vacation Bible School break out in a song and dance in Wednesday last week.

Saipan Community Church senior pastor Greg Dickerman holds the mike while a participant recites his memorized bible verse.

MARK RABAGO

MARK RABAGO

The five-day Vacation Bible School, held from July 11 to 15, averaged 88 participants despite the rainy weather .

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

TABLE TOP EXERCISE

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controller Leif Wigman-Nilsson watches some of the training participants who divided themselves in groups while plotting on a navigational chart during Wednesday's Search and Rescue Table Top Exercise held at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room.

USO

MOVIE IN THE PARK

USO and Tan Holdings officers and employees pose with the DVDs that were given out for free during the Movie in the Park held on July 8 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. Around 500 people attended the event and watched animated film *Despicable Me*.

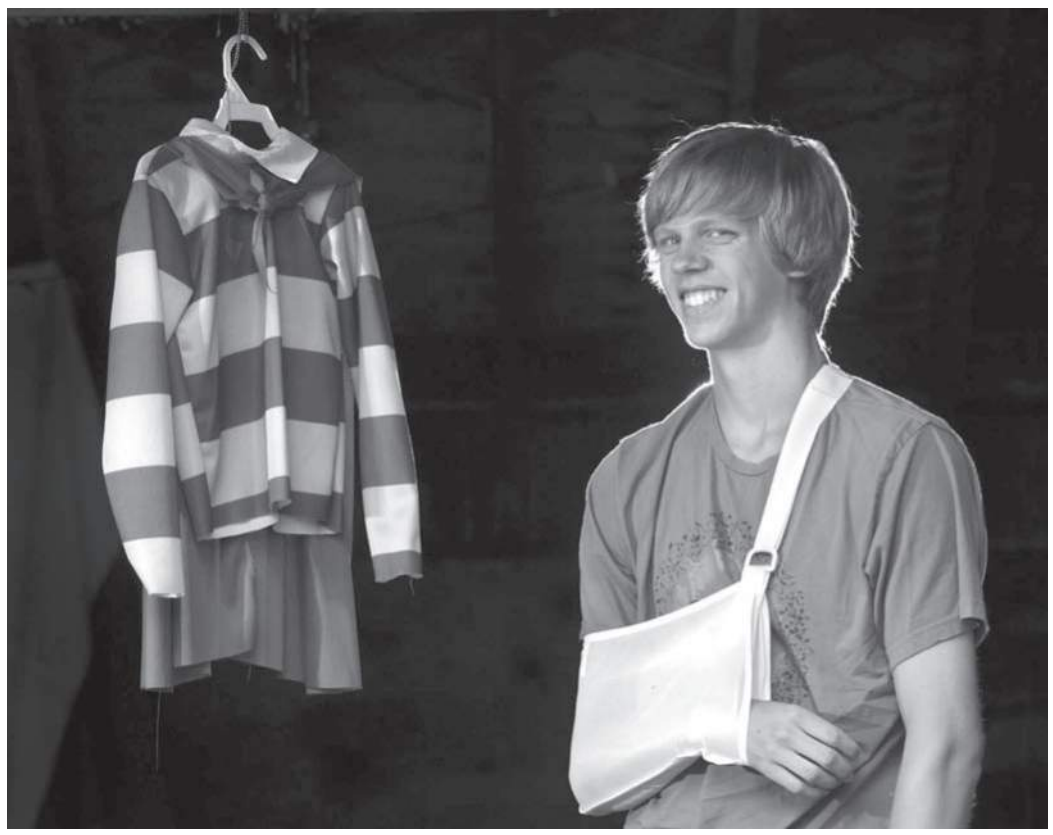
USO

Parents and their children look at some of the DVDs that were given out during the Movie in the Park on July 8 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The USO gave out more than 400 children's DVDs for free.

USO

YoungStyle

HARTFORD, Conn.—In 1999, Helena Morris was an articulate 9-year-old from Simsbury, Conn., with firm opinions. In an interview with *The Hartford Courant* that year, she described "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first in the J.K. Rowling series, as "the best book in the world, maybe in the universe."



STEPHEN DUNN/HARTFORD COURANT/MCT

Brett Carroll of Farmington, Connecticut, who spent a couple of Halloweens as Harry Potter and posed for *The Hartford Courant* at the age of 9 in costume, says the books "were definitely our generation's series."

Potter fans reflect on growing up with Harry

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Twelve years later, as the final Potter movie—"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2"—which opened Thursday, her feelings haven't wavered much.

"I still love the books very, very much," says the 22-year-old, who's ever more aware of what a huge part they played in her childhood.

"I used to pray every night that J.K. Rowling would live to finish the series," says Morris, who will soon be a senior at St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minn. "I'd say, 'Dear God, and let her live beyond that, but especially until she finishes her books.'"

Lately, she says, it's been a "huge point of contention" that her boyfriend has not read any of the books.

"I keep telling him: 'You have to read the books. I can't go out with someone who hasn't read the books. You don't have to love them, but you have to read them to understand so much about my childhood.'"

In the coming decades, Harry Potter will no doubt find a place in the hearts of many children, but perhaps none will have the deep-seated passion for the world of Hogwarts shared by those who grew up with him through the seven-book and eight-movie series.

To explore that special relationship, The Hartford Courant contacted five first-generation Potter fans we interviewed a decade or more ago. Their experiences with the books are woven deeply into their childhood memories.

■■■

Lily Wilkinson, who was 10 when the first Potter film came out, recalls that "most of the books came out when I was at summer camp, which was sort of an issue." So she'd pre-order the book before leaving for Vermont and await the day when a larger-than-usual mail truck pulled in.

"For the next week, no one cared about the (camp) activities," says Wilkinson, who is turning 20 this summer and lives in Boulder, Colo. "It was just a bunch of girls walking around with their noses in Harry Potter."

Brett Carroll of Farmington, Conn., who spent a couple of Halloweens as Harry Potter and posed for The Courant at the age of 9 in costume, says the books "were definitely our generation's series."

"I still think they are interesting books," says Carroll. "I still like the story-line ... It's just kind of cool to imagine there was a whole different world ... It was pretty easy to read, lots of action."

Carroll, who is now 18 and 6 feet 4, will be attending college in Salt Lake City starting next month.

Holly B. Gonzalez, who was 12 when the series began, helped critique the first Potter film for The Courant and says she's not as obsessed with the books as she used to be, but her interest is still strong. For a college party, she dyed her hair red to be Ginny Weasley, while her boyfriend dressed up as Harry Potter. Now 22 and working for a bank, she hopes to eventually get into publishing.

"I want to make things like (the Potter series) for other kids," she says.

■■■

Potter devotees talk about common elements in their childhood: attending midnight book store parties in character costume; the sweet-but-torturous waiting for the next installment; the bittersweet feeling on reaching the final page; reading and rereading to try to discern and predict future plot turns; arguing over the finer plot points and details with the intensity of scholars.

Sally Reis, a professor of educational psychology at UConn, says the books had a particularly deep impact on kids who grew up with Harry, partly because the readers were transitioning through life's stages with him.

"I think many of those young people who were so touched by his life, they were seeking something themselves, seeking a way to do similar things," Reis says.

Kids bring their own interests to what they read, she says, and in many cases they may feel as Harry did going through adolescence: "a little bit different, a little unique, very bright, maybe without a lot of peers ... Many identify with Harry on a very personal level. They saw in him a hero, a person who triumphed over evil, who gains friends and people who love him through his valor and his self-journey."

Teikyo Mowchan, 19, who will be a sophomore at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., this fall, says the book series is not as huge a part of his life now as it was a decade ago, though it did inspire him to want to be a writer. He was living in Newington, Conn., when he critiqued the first Potter film for The Courant. (He said that movie skipped a bit too abruptly from scene to scene.)

"It was something that guided me through my childhood," Mowchan says. "It did sort of provide help for adolescent problems. Every teenager goes through the same basic things. Harry and I were pretty much synched-up age wise. It was kind of like he was my guide in a way. It was really nice."

Morris identified most with Hermione.

"I was always a huge nerd in school," says Morris, and Hermione suffered with her reputation as "a smart girl ... really kind of a dork."

"People were always putting her in a box," Morris says, but then Hermione proved that she was far more complex and courageous.

As the youngest in a large family, Wilkinson identified with Ginny Weasley. "I just remember that first book when they are being dropped off at the train station and everyone is saying, 'Oh, don't worry Ginny, you'll get to go next year,' and that was the story of my life."

■■■

The delay of a year or more between books intensified their influence. While the kids were waiting for the next book, they read and reread the books they had, looking for clues about what might happen next.

Children starting the books now "will still love the books, but there won't be the fascination for what's going to happen next," says Reis. "I don't think they will think about it so deeply because they can pick up the next book."

Just before the sixth book came out—"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"—the fans of the series remember the obsession with trying to determine who would die in that book.

"Oh yeah, some of the best times were waiting just before the books," Mowchan says. "You knew you were going to know in a few days, but you had no idea what you were going to know."

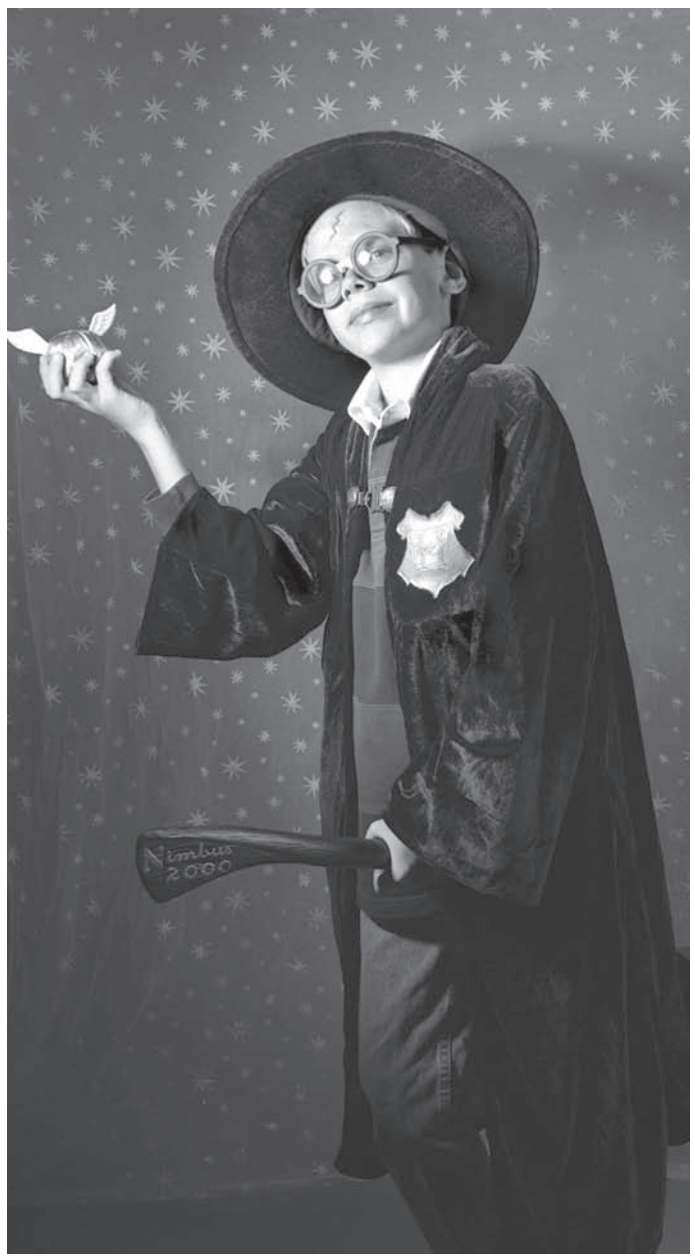
The anticipation about what might happen and the realization that "it didn't happen the way you thought it might, engaged (young readers)," Reis said. "They became part of the writing process by waiting."

The first generation of Potter fans worry that kids won't be mature enough to appreciate the books if they buzz through them quickly, and others fear they will just see the movies.

Mowchan thinks the series "lost something of its sparkle now that it's complete."

But that doesn't mean he isn't planning to see "Deathly Hallows." Mowchan and Wilkinson already have their tickets for the midnight showing. Only Morris won't be going. She's always refused to see the movies because she feared Hollywood would ruin them for her.

"I would get invited over to people's houses and I'd say, 'I'm going to leave if you are going play this movie,'" Morris says. "I've fought it my entire childhood."

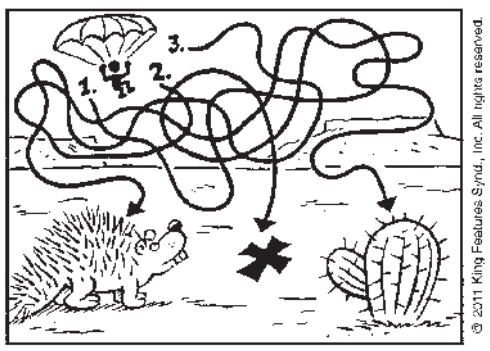


CLOE POISSON/HARTFORD COURANT/MCT

Brett Carroll of Farmington, Connecticut pose for *The Hartford Courant* at the age of 9 in costume as Harry Potter. Carroll, who is now 18 and 6 feet 4, will be attending college in Salt Lake City starting next month.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



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A PRICKLY PROBLEM! Can you guess which course our daredevil should steer to avoid these desert dangers?

Answer: Flight path number 1 is the one to choose.

Illustrated by David Coulson

FIND THE LEAD SINGER! Hidden in this presenter's announcement is the name of a popular rock singer. You have 30 seconds to find it.

Answer: "... ST IN G ..."

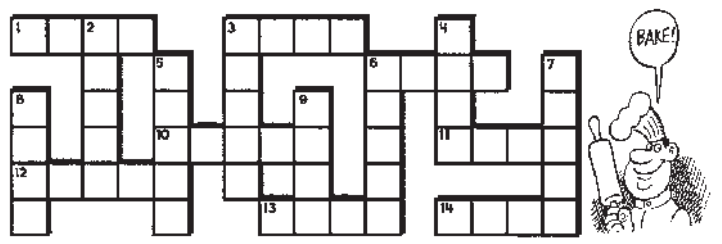
TRY TAMING THIS PUZZLE! At the right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. A circus performer (given). 2. To tolerate.
3. Short skirts. 4. A formal command.
5. Musical pauses

1 T	2 A	3 M	4 E	5 R
2 A				
3 M				
4 E				
5 R				

Answers: 1. Tamer. 2. Abide. 3. Minis. 4. Edict. 5. Rests.

FOOD WORDS



Below are the 16 food-related words you will need to complete the crossword puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. And keep a good eraser handy!

ASPIC	JAMS	PESTO
BAKE	MOCHA	PLUM
BEAN	NACHO	ROLL
CRAB	PEACH	TACO
CREAM	PEAR	TUNAS
EGGS		

Answers: (Across) 1. Bean. 3. Pear. 6. Crab. 10. Nacho. 11. Eggs. 12. Mocha. 13. Plum. 14. Taco. (Down) 2. Aspic. 3. Peach. 4. Bake. 5. Tunas. 6. Cream. 7. Pesto. 8. Jams. 9. Roll.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century U.S. Attorney General and Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson who made the following sage observation: "The price of freedom of religion or of speech or of the press is that we must put up with, and even pay for, a good deal of rubbish."

■ It's common knowledge that Microsoft founder Bill Gates is regularly ranked as one of the world's wealthiest people, but you might not realize that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the world's wealthiest charitable organization, with an endowment of $36.7 billion.

■ If you're planning a trip to Iowa anytime soon, you might want to schedule a stop in the town of Walcott. There you can visit the Iowa 80 Truckstop, the world's largest. With a whopping 220 acres, the truck stop is 1.5 times the size of Disneyland.

■ In a traditional Hungarian wedding ceremony, the bride wears a headdress made of woven wheat, thought to help ensure the couple's fertility.

■ Historians say that famed German composer Ludwig van Beethoven was quite particular about his coffee. It is claimed that he counted out exactly 60 coffee beans for each cup that he drank.

■ The longest mountain range on Earth is located underwater—in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, to be specific. It's nearly 25,000 miles long, and the only part of it that's above water is the nation of Iceland.

■ If you are an American of a certain age, you almost certainly spent time watching the 1960s sitcom "I Dream of Jeannie." The iconic bottle where the genie lived wasn't actually created for the show; the set dressers used a Jim Beam holiday decanter from 1964.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."—Mark Twain

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MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS WITH STRIPES

U J G D S A X V S Q S N K I F
D A X V O T T H Q O G M J H R
F C A Y C R O S S W A L K E A
W U R P C N K L N L L J H N E
F D B Z E X V N G T F R O A W
Q O M Y R L S K U N K R K C N
I H B F P T O A D M I B Z Y O
Y E W V I I T P R D P K T D S
E R Q U T G O N I B L J R N I
K I S H C E E R E F E R H A R
F D C A H R G Z X S W Z V C P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Candy cane	Gridiron	Referee	Ties
Chipmunk	Honey bee	Skunk	Tiger
Crosswalk	Parking lot	Soccer pitch	Zebra
Flags	Prison wear	Suits	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		×		15
×		×		+	
	+		×		30
−		+		×	
	−		×		15
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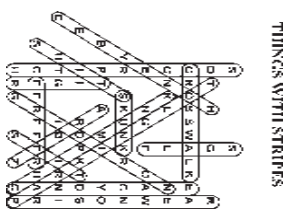
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

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Itchy skin plagues pot-bellied pigs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My pot-bellied pigs, "Penny" and "Norman," again lost their hair very early this spring, when it was still very cold. Their skin was extremely itchy and very cracked and dry-looking. I contacted many vets, Humane Societies and others concerning this never-ending issue. Many told me that hair loss in pot-bellied pigs is normal, and there was nothing I could do. That was not good enough for me.

Now I think I found something that is helping. I've been adding safflower oil in with their food pellets—about a tablespoon each feeding. They have not grown back any hair, since I just started this about three weeks ago. But I can tell they don't look as dry and they're not scratching as much.

I give safflower oil to my dogs and cats during the winter while our wood stove is operating, as they tend to get dry, flaky skin. The oil makes their fur very shiny. So I thought I would try it on my piggies. I hope this will help others who are going through this. Good luck!—Diane at Little Moose Farm

DEAR DIANE: Skin problems and hair loss in pot-bellied pigs is indeed very common, but troubling for owners. Pot-bellied pigs can "blow their coats" routinely after reaching about two years of age, and their skin can be dry during the period before their hair grows back. However, other problems can sometimes cause hair loss and dry, cracked skin as well, so it's always good to check with the vet when hair loss occurs.

Many experts recommend adding a cod liver oil or fish oil supplement to the pigs' food, and safflower oil may be a good alternative as well. This can help improve their dry skin while waiting for their coats to regrow.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Tips to recycle the garage-sale way

Planning and running a family garage sale can be more than a moneymaking venture for you and your kids. Dollars might be an incentive for parting with outgrown toys, books and clothes, but your kids also will be reaping the benefits of hands-on experience in marketing, merchandising and sales.

Here are some tips to recycle and turn your castoffs to treasures the garage-sale way:

Get Ready:

■ Set aside time before the sale to help your kids clear the clutter and sort through books, toys, DVDs and clothes. Wash items that are soiled, and put jackets, shirts and blouses on hangers to show off the merchandise. People don't like to dig in piles of stuff. If a toy has small parts, corral the pieces, put them in a small bag and tape the bag to the toy.

■ Put price stickers on items and price to sell.

■ Although you might advertise the sale in the newspaper and on websites like craigslist, your kids can make their own fliers to distribute to neighbors to publicize the items they are selling.

Eye-Catchers:

■ Make your sale "an experience" with small touches. Cover tables with bright fabric, hang a mirror near clothing and hats, and play music on a DVD player. If your garden is in full bloom, fill jars with flowers and sell by the stem.

■ Draw in shoppers with a big poster with "Extraordinary Kids Stuff" printed in large letters in the kids' department.

■ Set out a table or box of "free stuff." You'll be surprised to see what people will take for free!

■ By far, snacks are a super draw. Sell coffee and cold beverages. And who can refuse buying a cookie or sweet roll while strolling around your sale?

Selling:

■ Find a cash box and be sure someone is always in charge of it throughout the day.

■ Be prepared to bargain, especially for bikes, scooters and skates.

■ At the end of the sale, gather leftover items in good condition, remove the stickers and donate to a nonprofit organization.

Extra Idea:

One of a few favorite tips posted on my Donna's Day Facebook page included setting up a "Man's Table" filled with tools and gadgets and placed strategically by the street. The successful idea came from the time the writer's husband dug through his shed and set out boxes of miscellaneous stuff at $1 per box. "Men are happy to stay longer and don't bother their female partners while they are shopping," she wrote. Plus, "It also got rid of lots of clutter from the shed!"

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Another alleged Marilyn Monroe sex film surfaces

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A Spanish collector plans to auction what he claims is a newly discovered 8-mm version of a film purportedly showing Marilyn Monroe having sex when she was still an underage actress known as Norma Jean Baker.

A Marilyn Monroe expert, however, says the actress in the film is someone else, considerably heavier and less feminine than the legendary film star.

"That's not Marilyn. The chin is not the same, the lips are not the same, the teeth are not the same," said Scott Fortner, who has a sizeable collection of Monroe memorabilia, including a belt he said proves how much more petite she was. "Marilyn was a tiny little thing. And I know that for a fact. I own her clothing."

Collector Mikel Barsa said in an interview Wednesday that he wants at least $500,000 for the sexually explicit 6 1/2-minute, grainy black-and-white film, which he says was made before 1947, when Monroe was not yet 21.

He said it's an exact copy of a 16-mm film discovered more than a decade ago. Barsa brokered a sale of that film to a European magazine in 1997, which he said in turn sold some 600,000 copies before a collector bought the original 16-mm reel for $1.2 million. Copies of that version are still circulating on the Internet.

"People with romantic notions have denied that it's Marilyn Monroe, and have invented stories" to raise doubts about the film, Barsa said in his Buenos Aires office, which is lined with pictures from his days as a concert promoter. "This film shows the real Marilyn Monroe—it was only later that the studios discovered her and transformed her."

The face of the woman in the film looks considerably different from the Monroe who emerged later as a star, but more similar to the Monroe seen in one of her first movies, 1949's "Love Happy," which shows the actress before she lost weight, added a beauty spot on her left cheek and became one of Hollywood's most enduring stars.

Barsa said he has no idea how the two original copies ended up in the hands of the people who sought his help selling them, and he refused to identify any of the principals involved. He said that in the 1940s, sex films were often made using side-by-side 16-mm and 8-mm cameras, since audiences used both formats.

The collector said that Mark Roesler of Indianapolis-based CMG Worldwide, which has managed the image and estate of Monroe, threatened to sue after the earlier version surfaced in 1997. Barsa said nothing ever came of it after the owners offered to sell the film to CMG.

Roesler didn't respond Wednesday to two emails and a phone call requesting comment.

Barsa says he plans to auction the film himself Aug. 7 at a memorabilia collectors fair that he has organized in Buenos Aires, and is hoping for publicity similar to the scandal he generated when he screened the 16-mm version at a similar fair in Madrid in 1997. News coverage of his auction is already creating another buzz on the Internet.

His part of the deal is a 10 percent sales commission, he said.

A variety of sexually explicit films and pictures have been attributed to Monroe over the years, fostering a long and unresolved debate.

"In the Marilyn community, people have debated this for years and years and for the most part it's widely believed that this is not her," Fortner said.

Still, even Fortner said Monroe's image changed considerably as she became a star—that she had some plastic surgery, learned how to hold her face differently in modeling school and adopted a mole on her left cheek. "I actually think it moved from time to time," Fortner said.

Monroe died of an overdose of sleeping pills in 1962 at 36.

'Twilight' co-stars surprise fans at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Early risers among "Twilight" fans have gotten a chance to see what some of their big-screen idols look like first thing in the morning.

Not long after dawn broke Thursday, Ashley Greene, Nikki Reed, Elizabeth Reaser and other co-stars of the supernatural movie franchise made a surprise visit to greet fans who had camped out for days to catch a preview of the next "Twilight" flick at Comic-Con.

Greene, Reed and Reaser, who play members of the Cullen vampire family in "Twilight," were joined by Julia Jones and Boo Boo Stewart, who co-star as kinfolk in the rival werewolf pack.

The actors signed "Twilight" posters, mugs and other movie memorabilia, posed for pictures with fans and even served some breakfast goodies to "Twihards," some of whom were in line since Monday afternoon to get into the preview at Comic-Con, a massive gathering for fans of comics, video games, television and film.

"I am a morning person, but this is definitely early, getting up at 4:30," Reed said. "But when people have been camped out since Monday, you just feel it's a good idea to come out and surprise them."

"I feel like this is our time to get out and have actual experiences with fans," Reaser said. "Being out here with them makes me feel the films are special, important and really mean something to them."

Seven friends, including Monica Foltz, 26, of San Diego, and Candie Hattori, 37, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, were first in line. They tried to camp out in front of the San Diego Convention Center as early as Sunday but were told by security officers that they had to leave. They came back a day later and were allowed to stay, securing the first spots in line among a rush of other fans.

"A bunch of people all got here at the same time. It was a matter of who pounced first," Foltz said.

She and her friends, along with hundreds of others, gasped in surprise and began clapping and cheering as the actors arrived.

"Oh my God!" one fan shouted to friends after she got Reed and Greene to sign a poster for her.

"Unbelievable! My heart is racing. It doesn't matter how old you are, you still feel that little twitter," said Hattori, who got the stars to sign her Comic-Con badge and a laminated cutout of "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson that she and friends around the country mail back and forth to one another. They call it "traveling Edward," after Pattinson's vampire character, Edward Cullen.

Pattinson and fellow stars Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner also were in town for the Comic-Con panel offering fans a look at this fall's "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1."

Judge: Lohan needs to speed up community service

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge warned Lindsay Lohan Thursday that she must spend more time doing community service and enroll in psychological counseling or risk running into problems with her probation.

In a separate development, Lohan was sued for assault and battery in Riverside County by a former worker at the Betty Ford Center who had a dispute with the actress in December.

In Los Angeles, Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner reminded the actress during a status hearing in her criminal cases that she had to complete 480 hours of community service by next April, and that she would not grant any extensions, even if Lohan is working on a film.

Lohan

"She's not going to get five minutes more than one year" to complete the service at a shelter for women and the county morgue, Sautner said.

The judge opened the hearing by telling Lohan that probation officials had submitted a report stating she had violated the terms of her release.

"Don't look shocked Ms. Lohan because it isn't true," Sautner said, explaining the probation officer was relying on incorrect information.

The judge did chide the actress for not providing officials with a phone number where she could be reached for monitoring.

It was Lohan's first appearance in court since completing 35 days of house arrest. Her attorney, Shawn Holley, noted the actress was prohibited from doing community service during that time.

Lohan, 25, has completed one of four anti-shoplifting classes. Sautner said she must complete the rest before returning to court on Oct. 19.

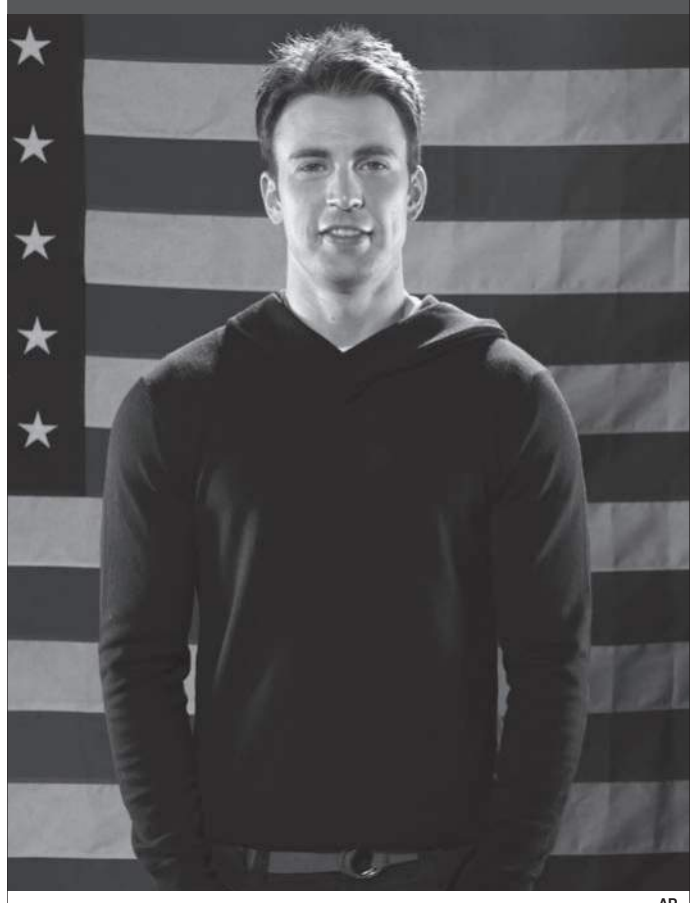
Holley said her client is having trouble enrolling in court-ordered psychological counseling. Sautner agreed that the actress should not have to enroll in group treatment, but said Lohan must find someone to counsel her within three weeks.

Lohan cannot afford to pay a psychiatrist who was previously treating her but would find a new program shortly, Holley said.

The actress remains on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case and a misdemeanor grand theft case in which she pleaded no contest in May to taking a $2,500 necklace without permission.

In the newly filed lawsuit, court records show Dawn Holland, who is now using her maiden name Bradley, sued Lohan claiming assault and battery. A full copy of the suit was not immediately available.

Chris Evans brings 'Captain America' to Comic-Con



AP

Actor Chris Evans, from "Captain America", poses for a portrait at the LMT Music Lodge during Comic Con in San Diego, Thursday, July 21, 2011.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Amid throngs of fans, uniformed soldiers and dancing girls, "Captain America" star Chris Evans introduced the latest Marvel film to a Comic-Con crowd Thursday, a day ahead of its nationwide opening.

"I love this movie. I really think we've got something special here," Evans said to the packed theater audience, many wearing Captain America T-shirts (and some in the full costume, with shield). "It's everything a superhero movie should be.

"I can't always be this enthusiastic, because I don't always like my movies."

With that, fans donned their special Captain America 3-D glasses and settled in for the two-hour ride. The pre-show excitement was so great that people clapped for the Paramount logo and cheered when the Marvel imprint came on screen.

Fans gathered before dawn for a chance to see the first public showing of the anticipated Marvel movie. They were rewarded for their devotion with free posters, buttons and T-shirts that read "First to see the first Avenger."

"This is what San Diego Comic-Con is all about," said Mark Walters of Dallas, who toted a poster and a T-shirt as he attended his 17th consecutive Comic-Con. "I've been waiting for this movie my whole life. I'm a huge Captain America fan."

Fans' enthusiasm remained constant throughout the action romp, where Evans plays Steve Rogers, a good-hearted but small-statured guy who enlists in the Army and submits himself for an experimental treatment to become a super soldier. Spontaneous applause erupted when Evans first came on screen, when Stan Lee made his requisite cameo and when Samuel L. Jackson appeared as the eye-patch-wearing Nick Fury.

When the credits rolled, nobody moved. This is Comic-Con, and the fans here know that Marvel movies often end with "Easter eggs" that hint at future films.

This one was a doozy: A teaser trailer for next summer's superhero-packed "The Avengers" showed at the end of "Captain America," providing fans with a first look at the film and all its superstar superheroes in one dazzling, blink-and-you'll-miss-something preview.

"I can't wait for next year!" an elated Robert Garcia said as he left the theater. He had waited since 5 a.m. to attend the "Captain America" screening. "It was worth it just for the trailer."

First lady helping build NC home for homeless vets

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A crew working on a boarding house for homeless women veterans got a hand Thursday from first lady Michelle Obama during filming of an episode of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

Wearing a sleeveless blue top, green capris and green sneakers, the first lady was cheered during her visit by hundreds of people after a crowd waited hours in searing heat for a glimpse of her. But the early afternoon heat and excitement got the best of some and a handful of people fainted, requiring the care of emergency medical crews.

The first lady had traveled to this North Carolina base town to view the construction of a new home for the women veterans of the Steps N Stages Jubilee House. The ABC network said the episode is scheduled to air in October.

Obama toured the site with Barbara Marshall, the 15-year Navy veteran who runs the project as a shelter for women veterans and allowed her own home to be demolished to make room for the new building. After a tour of areas including a playhouse and greenhouse, Obama gave Marshall a hug.

AP

First lady Michelle Obama waves as she enters the Jubilee House during the taping of Extreme Makeover Home Edition in Fayetteville, N.C., Thursday, July 21, 2011.

Reporters were only able to catch a glimpse of Obama as she arrived at the house and later when she returned in a change of clothes, wearing a green dress with a dark pattern and a gold belt.

Audrey Culbreth, 56, drove about 25 miles from Roseboro with her friend, Ella Johnson, 63, of White Oak. While Johnson was interested in both the television show and Obama, Culbreth focused solely on Obama.

Culbreth missed Obama when she walked in the house, much to her disappointment.

"My heart dropped," she said. "I really did want to get a peek of Michelle Obama."

A little later, however, she saw Obama in the greenhouse behind the main house and smiled widely.

The heat bothered Culbreth, as it did others. She was one of the lucky ones, turning a heavy metal camera case on its side to use as a makeshift chair. Cries of "water, water" were at least as frequent as the show's famous phrase, "move that bus," which means the family is about to see their new home.

Chip Smith, owner of Blue Ridge Log Cabins, the primary contractor on the project, said as many as 200 volunteers have worked as late as 2 a.m. to tear down the old house and build the new one.

People lined up for tasks such as moving furniture, hanging pictures and cleaning, he said. "I think it's just great to see people come out and give back to the community," he said.

Obama's visit came a few hours before the finished house was expected to be unveiled. Later in the afternoon, Obama shook hands with members of the crowd, then went inside the house.

Several families will be able to live in the new house, which will include a resource center. Obama is participating as part of Joining Forces, an initiative to support service members that also involves Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the vice president.

Beatles' 1st US concert photos fetch $360K in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—In 1964, an enterprising 18-year-old snapped pictures of the Beatles' momentous first U.S. concert in Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday, Christie's auction house said it sold 50 silver gelatin prints that the photographer, Mike Mitchell, made from the negatives for $361,938. The images, plus photos from another Beatles concert, had been estimated to fetch a total of $100,000.

The Beatles played their first U.S. concert at the Washington Coliseum on Feb. 11, 1964, two days after their debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

Mike Mitchell was there, shooting photos from just feet away and even jumping onto the stage for the group's pre-concert press call. Among the highlights is a backlit shot of the band that he took while standing directly behind them. It sold on Wednesday for $68,500; its pre-sale estimate was $2,000 to $3,000.

An image of an animated Ringo Starr on the drums sold for $8,125. It was estimated to bring $3,000 to $5,000. Christie's said the shot depicts a rare moment where Starr was both drummer and lead singer on a song written by Paul McCartney and John Lennon, but made famous by The Rolling Stones: "I Wanna Be Your Man."

Cathy Elkies, Christie's director of iconic collections, said she expected the bids to exceed the pre-sale estimates.

"Beatles fans are fierce. To uncover this trove of images that's never been published will really excite people," she said.

Also included in the sale are photos of the band's Sept. 13, 1964, performance at the Baltimore Civic Center.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Mitchell described the rollicking scene at the Washington indoor arena—not only of screaming fans but also of his unrestricted access.

"It was a long time ago. Things weren't that way then," said the 65-year-old, who now works as an art photographer in Washington. "It was as low-tech as the concert itself. The concert was in a sports venue and the sound system was the sound system of a sports venue."

Equally astonishing is how few other photographs from that first concert exist.

Simeon Lipman, Christie's pop culture consultant, said it's not clear why there weren't many other photos of the concert. He said Mitchell's black and white photographs were remarkable for their "animated" and "intimate" depiction of the Fab Four.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ridley Scott: I'll never work without 3-D again

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ridley Scott is shooting his first film in 3-D, and he says he'll always use the multidimensional approach in his future films. The director appeared at Comic-Con via satellite from Iceland, where he is shooting the sci-fi thriller "Prometheus." Scott said 3-D doesn't just enhance action sequences, it "opens up the universe of even a small dialogue thing." The filmmaker said, "I'll never work without 3-D again." "Prometheus" star Charlize Theron appeared on stage at Comic-Con and co-star Noomi Rapace appeared alongside Scott in Iceland. The film explores questions of alien DNA and is set for release next year.

Pee-wee Herman aims to hit the road in new movie

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Pee-wee Herman hopes to take his act back on the road for a new big-screen adventure. Paul Reubens told an audience at the Comic-Con fan convention Thursday that he's working with Hollywood comedy powerhouse Judd Apatow to produce a new movie. Reubens appeared in character as Pee-wee, with his bow-tie and gray suit. He played the oddball man-child on television and in two feature films, including Tim Burton's 1985 comedy "Pee-wee's Big Adventure." Reubens says Apatow felt strongly that the new film should return the character to his life on the road in the first movie. He says that's what they're doing: "A road picture across the entire country."

Toot! Toot! Popeye landing new comic book

Popeye has eaten his spinach and is poised for the finish ahead of a return to the pages of comic books. Created by Elzie Crisler Segar in 1929, the King Features staple returns to the pages of comic books in 2012, IDW Publishing said Thursday at Comic-Con International. IDW co-founder and chief executive Ted Adams says the sailor with the bulging forearms will be have his own monthly series that will feature Olive Oyl, big and blustery Bluto along with hamburger-craving Wimpy and baby Swee'Pea, too. He says a best of Popeye book that IDW published earlier drew strong fan reaction and led to the idea of the new series. Adam added the comic books will be stylistically similar to Segar's work and for an all-ages audience. ***(AP)***

Nixon library releases new set of recordings

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP)—The Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in California has released a new set of recordings that include memos that reveal President Richard Nixon was obsessed with his enemies long before Watergate. In one memo released Thursday that Nixon dictated to chief of staff Bob Haldeman in early 1970, the president says, "The more I think of it, setting up a special group for the purpose not of cheering but solely of attacking and defending is of the highest priority." In another memo Nixon complains about the new White House press room, saying "we have gone overboard in terms of the elaborate individual cubicles and other areas that have been set up." The library also released more than 500,000 pages of presidential records and several online exhibits.

Co-ed fears high school past will haunt her college future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: In the past, I made several seriously awful decisions about guys. I also spent two years in high school off and on with a young man who only made my life dramatic and exhausting. Now that I'm a freshman in college, I have encountered several guys I'd love to have a relationship with, but I feel unworthy.

Because of my bad decisions and the fact that I knew these guys before they attended school with me here, I'm worried my past will catch up with me and they'll think I'm still the way I was back then. I have been working on cleaning up my language, and I have sworn off drugs and alcohol trying to make myself more appealing.

Some of my friends have told me I shouldn't have to change who I am for "some guy." Are they right? What should I do to make a connection with one of these young men?

UNDESERVING IN IDAHO

DEAR UNDESERVING: If these friends are implying that it's all right to drink, use drugs, use foul language and do things with guys that you're ashamed of later, then it's time to change friends.

I believe in the philosophy of constant self-improvement. When you improve yourself to the point that you are proud of yourself, you will attract men who have more to offer than the ones you were involved with in high school.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I was growing up, manners were taught at home, but now it seems etiquette has been placed on the back burner. As an elementary school teacher, I try to emphasize the importance of good manners, and I'm amazed and disappointed at the lack of interest from the parents of my students. They don't seem to appreciate the importance of a "Thank you," "Yes, Ma'am," "No, Sir," etc.

I am frustrated by the lack of instruction my students receive at home and at the poor manners shown by others in our community. Have you any ideas on how to bring this much-needed skill back to the forefront?

DOING MY BEST IN AMARILLO

DEAR DOING YOUR BEST: You have described parents who are not doing their jobs, or who were never taught basic good manners themselves. How sad for the children.

Years ago, parents taught children the "magic" of the words "please" and "thank you" in how their requests were received. Because your students haven't been so fortunate, you are right to deliver that life lesson to them in the classroom. After spending a year with you, they will have it down pat. As for their parents, face it—it's too late.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A good friend has asked me to be a groomsman in his wedding. The problem is, the bachelor party will be in Las Vegas. Ordinarily that wouldn't be an issue, but there is no date set yet for the party. The wedding is in September, so I assume the bachelor party will be in August.

I recently bought an engagement ring for my girlfriend, and I also am hosting my brother's bachelor party in late August. I honestly can't afford a trip to Vegas at this time, especially with short notice. What's the proper protocol? Do I find a way to come up with the money? How do I let my friend know I can't make it without getting him upset?

FULL CALENDAR IN PHILLY

DEAR FULL CALENDAR: The proper protocol is to tell your friend ASAP that you cannot attend the bachelor party for the valid reasons you shared with me. You not only do not have the money to make the trip, but you also have a prior family commitment. Your friend may be disappointed, but if he becomes upset, that's his problem, so please do not make it yours.

P.S. If he's truly a friend he'll understand.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

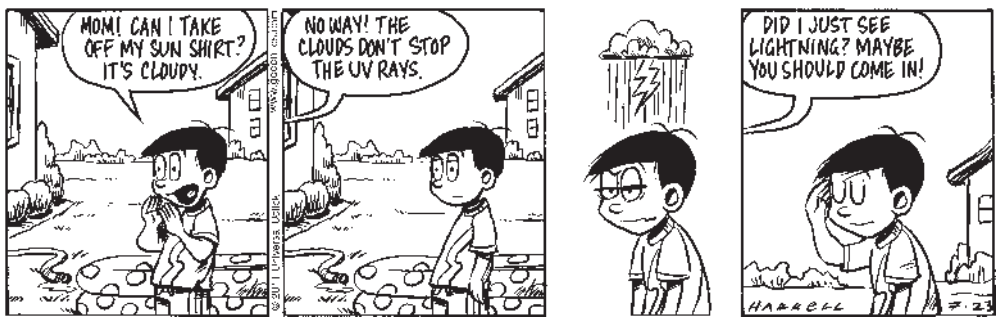
WHAT'S THAT CEREAL YOU'RE EATING?
IT'S MY NEW FAVORITE, "CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS."
HAVE A TASTE.
THANK YOU.
MFFPBTH!! S-SW-SW SWEET!!
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE KINDA BLAND TILL YOU SCOOP SUGAR ON 'EM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM! CAN I TAKE OFF MY SUN SHIRT? IT'S CLOUDY.
NO WAY! THE CLOUDS DON'T STOP THE UV RAYS.
DID I JUST SEE LIGHTNING? MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME IN!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Half a 1960s singing group
6 Settles a debt
12 Geisha's garment
13 Spotted cat
14 Oddly funny
15 Seward's Folly
16 Egg container
17 Emanation
19 "— the fields we go"
20 Actress Celeste
22 Pitch
24 Clumsy craft
27 European range
29 Track circuits
32 Guy Fieri's game show
35 Iowa city
36 Showroom sample
37 Put into words
38 Listener
40 Alarmed squeals
42 Old man
44 "— It Romantic?"
46 Bear up there?
50 Animated movie of 2002
52 Effect
54 Washington neighbor
55 Sister of Moses and Aaron
56 "The Colbert —"
57 Glorify

DOWN
1 Stick in the mud
2 Book before Obadiah
3 Calendar page
4 Blackbird
5 Commonly named
6 Bellow
7 Brilliance
8 Shell game need
9 Losers
10 Oxen's connector
11 Luminary
12 Family
18 Gazillions
21 Feedbag tidbit
23 Mr. Baba
24 Docs' org.
25 Edge
26 Like snow after a blizzard
28 Occasional
30 Actress Zadora
31 Pigs' digs
33 Cable channel
34 Moo goo gai pan pan
39 Severity
41 Earlier on the page
42 A-line creator
43 Land measure
45 Transmitted
47 Bar
48 "Shoo!"
49 NCR product
51 Way back when
53 Blend

Solution time: 27 mins.

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T	E	A	R	U	P	■	N	A	G	■	■	■
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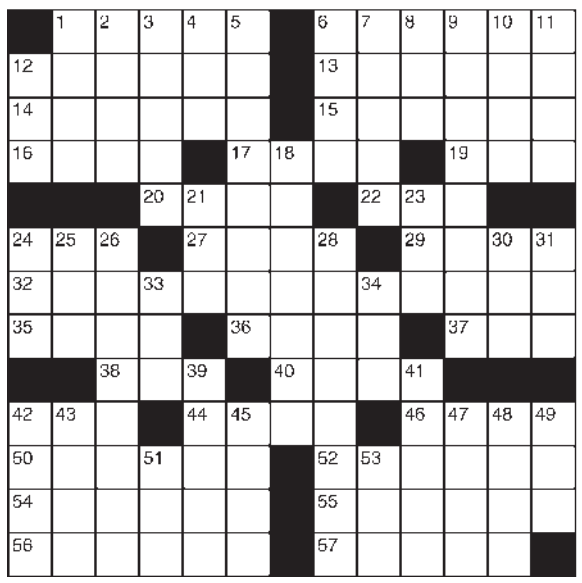
D	E	L	A	Y	■	F	O	G	■	R	O	E
I	C	E	D	■	M	O	B	■	V	O	T	E
S	R	I	■	B	O	X	■	T	I	T	A	N
C	U	S	T	E	R	■	B	E	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	G	O	■	A	S	L	E	E	P
B	O	O	R	■	C	U	S	T	A	R	D	S
I	N	F	O	■	C	A	E	E	■	I	N	S
D	E	F	T	■	O	L	D	E	■	C	A	T

Yesterday's answer 7-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daniel Radcliffe, 22; Marlon Wayans, 39; Philip Seymour Hoffman, 44; Woody Harrelson, 50.

Happy Birthday: Live and learn. The experience you gain through the people you meet will play an intrinsic part in the way you move forward. There is plenty to gain by getting along with the people who show the most interest in the same things you do. Don't let uncertainty hold you back when you should be jumping in and taking a leadership position. Your numbers are 2, 8, 19, 23, 27, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do your best and move on. You cannot let what others do or say bother you. Getting out with people who appreciate you is important to your emotional well-being. A shopping spree will cheer you up as long as you don?t overspend. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll tend to overreact if someone doesn't like what you are doing. A problem with someone you love will leave you in a quandary. Don't let your stubbornness lead to a stupid argument that is a waste of emotional energy and likely to ruin your day. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): What appears to be a great deal probably isn't legitimate. It is best to research what's being offered before getting involved. An emotional matter concerning someone's private affairs will leave you in an awkward position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Changes may cause you worry, but accepting the inevitable can prove to be a godsend. The help you offer will be repaid in an unusual way. Getting together with someone from your past will inspire you to revisit old goals. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Trouble is brewing; keep a low profile. Overindulgent individuals will cause you grief and stir up emotions that can lead to a falling-out. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Steer clear of anyone who is trying to take advantage of you or dump responsibilities that don't belong to you in your lap. A mini trip will lead to a fantastic and life-changing experience. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The more you interact with new people or visit unfamiliar places, the better off you will be and the more encouragement you will receive. It's time to spread your wings and try new things. Stop letting negative people drag you down. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A personal partnership will cause you trouble if you can't come to terms with what you both want. Take a breather and share time with someone who will listen to your side of the situation. Once you have had a chance to distance yourself, you will find a solution. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your energy into moneymaking projects or picking up additional skills that will enable you to earn more in the future. A change at home will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Get odd jobs out of the way first so you can enjoy your playtime more. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take time out for friends and family and fixing up your digs. An opportunity will develop through the company you keep. You have the energy to succeed at anything you put your mind to. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Too much talk and not enough action will lead to trouble. Don't meddle in others' affairs when you should be sorting out your own problems. A competitive challenge will keep you on your toes and out of trouble. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep to yourself. Work at developing something you've wanted to do for some time. Your creative ability is skyrocketing. Self-improvement projects will pay off, and attracting new friends or a lover is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong, stable and stubborn. You are unpredictable, strong-willed and determined to get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							6	
	4			3			5	
7		9	5			8		
5					7		4	
				9				
	1		6					3
		5			4	7		1
	3			1			2	
	2							

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	3	9	8	2	5	7	4
2	7	9	5	4	1	8	6	3
5	8	4	7	3	6	2	9	1
9	2	5	8	6	4	3	1	7
3	4	1	2	5	7	6	8	9
8	6	7	1	9	3	4	5	2
4	9	6	3	1	8	7	2	5
1	3	2	6	7	5	9	4	8
7	5	8	4	2	9	1	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TV's 'THE BIG BANG THEORY' **Solution: 7 letters**

H	R	Q	O	O	B	S	E	S	S	I	V	E	Ⓡ	W
S	O	O	S	R	E	E	N	I	G	N	E	Ⓔ	L	O
E	U	W	B	M	A	O	R	A	U	C	Ⓗ	R	E	L
J	K	S	A	H	S	L	N	M	A	Ⓣ	Y	G	O	O
A	A	G	E	R	G	O	O	N	Ⓞ	G	F	E	N	W
R	L	T	A	U	D	I	R	Ⓜ	O	V	R	D	A	I
S	E	P	R	L	G	O	E	L	T	T	I	A	R	T
E	Y	T	E	O	T	A	O	N	C	Y	E	E	D	Z
S	M	H	D	A	O	I	E	E	E	R	N	C	S	C
U	S	O	V	A	B	M	L	L	O	R	D	N	G	O
I	Y	E	S	O	T	L	M	S	L	G	D	E	E	O
N	L	D	R	R	E	S	P	A	I	O	R	I	E	P
E	U	C	A	T	U	A	F	L	T	A	C	C	K	E
G	I	P	N	R	C	O	D	O	H	E	I	S	Y	R
M	A	I	M	E	P	A	F	S	H	N	S	Y	U	G

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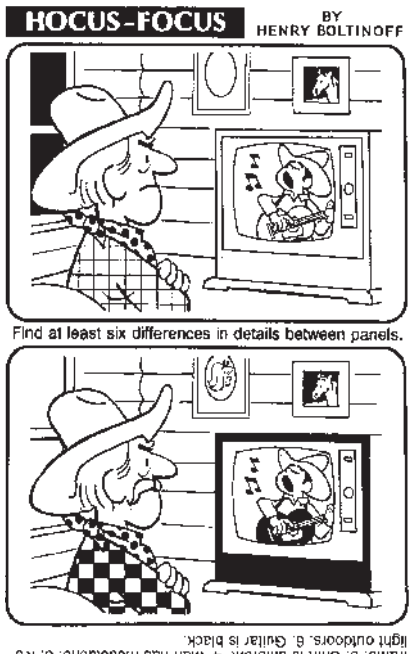
Aerospace, Apartment, Colleagues, Cooper, Degree, Elevator, Engineers, Foursome, Friend, Games, Geeky, Geniuses, Gilda, Guys, Hofstadter, Howard, Intellect, Kaley, Leonard, Microbiology, Molaro, Mother, Movies, Neighbor, Nerd, Nice, Obsessive, Parsons, Penny, Prady, Rajesh, Rauch, Roommates, Science, Share, Sheldon, Wolowitz

Yesterday's Answer: Conned

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. TV cabinet is dark. 2. Girl's picture is in frame. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Man has mustache. 5. It's light outdoors. 6. Guitar is black.

Wishing Well®

6	3	2	4	7	6	8	4	3	5	4	6	8
V	F	H	P	F	A	E	E	A	L	R	R	X
5	4	3	5	2	7	3	2	4	3	7	6	4
I	S	M	N	O	R	I	M	U	L	E	I	A
5	7	5	6	3	2	3	7	3	2	4	6	7
G	S	E	E	Y	E	H	H	A	L	S	T	I
3	4	3	4	5	3	5	8	7	6	4	5	6
R	I	M	V	R	O	A	E	D	Y	E	W	I
4	7	6	7	8	4	8	2	3	8	4	7	4
I	E	S	A	R	D	C	I	N	I	E	S	A
5	3	5	4	2	8	6	8	2	5	2	8	6
H	Y	I	S	F	S	Y	E	E	L	A	M	O
8	6	2	5	2	8	6	2	6	2	8	2	2
I	U	L	E	T	N	R	E	S	R	D	E	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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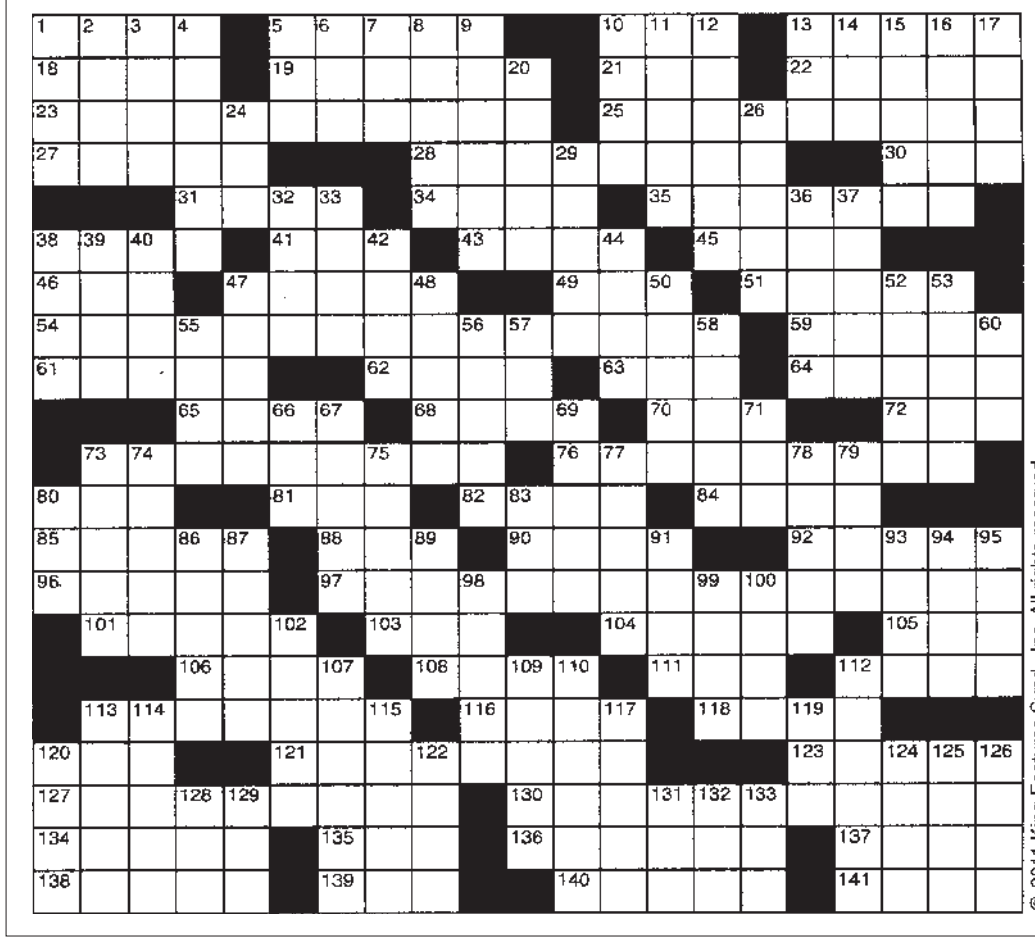
Super Crossword — WHIRLED TOUR

ACROSS

1 Hollywood clashers
5 Out of line
10 Palindromic Parseghian
13 Haarlem export
18 '78 Bujold thriller
19 Lavished
21 Waggle
22 Meyerbeer masterpiece
23 West Indian trouble-maker?
25 Mideastern show tune?
27 Aquatic animal
28 Appraise
30 Compass pt.
31 Vacation sensation
34 Citrus fruit
35 Brand or Chamberlain
38 Thames town
41 Son of Noah
43 Touch down
45 "— Dinah" ('58 hit)
46 Opening
47 — acid
49 One — customer
51 Gambols
54 Speechless, in South-east Asia?
59 Church members
61 Hold up
62 Pro bono
63 Summer quencher
64 Gawk
65 Israeli dance
68 TV's "— Life"
70 Brenda or Brandon
72 "Unforget-table" name
73 South American designer?
76 Scandinavian sugar substitute?
80 Muir or Miniver
81 By means of
82 Nobelist Wiesel
84 — gin fizz
85 Gam and Wilson
88 Exec's deg.
90 Concept
92 Pointless
96 Adult insect
97 Central American song?
101 Addis —
103 Rock's — Bravos
104 Ointment
105 Ornamental vine
106 Whip, for one
108 Family members, to many
111 Hum bug?
112 Perplexed
113 Artist Vincent
116 Stagger
118 Haul
120 Impresario Hurok
121 Self-assurance
123 Biblical kingdom
127 Caribbean entree?
130 African palanquins?
134 Where the buoys are
135 Fr. holy woman
136 Beethoven symphony
137 Ginger cookie
138 Swelling
139 Aunt or niece
140 Bestow
141 "Guarding —" ('94 film)

DOWN

1 Narcissus' nymph
2 Big kid?
3 Fail to mention
4 Glossy cloth
5 Garment part
6 — Paulo, Brazil
7 Relatives
8 Actress Georgia
9 Plant pest
10 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
11 Director Polanski
12 Let up
13 Anderson's "High —"
14 News org.
15 Raze
16 Musical of 1919
17 Unwind a rind
20 Stage stuff
24 Levin or Remsen
26 Extremely infrequently?
29 Slowly, to Sibelius
32 Dispel
33 Head set?
36 Sacred cows
37 Paul of "The Burning Bed"
38 "Heavens to Betsy!"
39 "Little Man —" ('91 film)
40 Fall birthstone
42 Irritate
44 Mrs. David Copperfield
47 "Blue —" ('77 hit)
48 It's walked at Windsor
50 Baffle
52 Nero's instrument
53 Scarecrow stuffing
55 Bolger/Haley co-star
56 Singer Della
57 Moisten
58 Starts a lawn
60 Still
66 Gun the engine
67 Out on —
69 Stage whisper
71 Sushi candidate
73 — donna
74 Cornerstone abbr.
75 Tag
77 Literary parson
78 Din
79 Easter ends it
80 Med. test
83 Taylor or Trotta
86 "F Troop" corporal
87 Edna Ferber novel
89 Crooked
91 Spirited steed
93 Baudelaire's buddies
94 Church area
95 "Orinoco Flow" singer
98 Grenoble's river
99 Beseeched
100 Done
102 Take on
107 Way out
109 On edge
110 Anchored
112 Taken way aback?
113 Endorse, with "for"
114 "The Sandbox" playwright
115 Wasteland
117 Enticed
119 Timber tree
120 Sailboat, e.g.
122 — -Ball (arcade game)
124 Mozart's "— kleine Nachtmusik"
125 Some underwear
126 Snake charmer's crew
128 Bond rating
129 NBC comedy showcase
131 Support
132 Sgt. or cpl.
133 Cornfield cry



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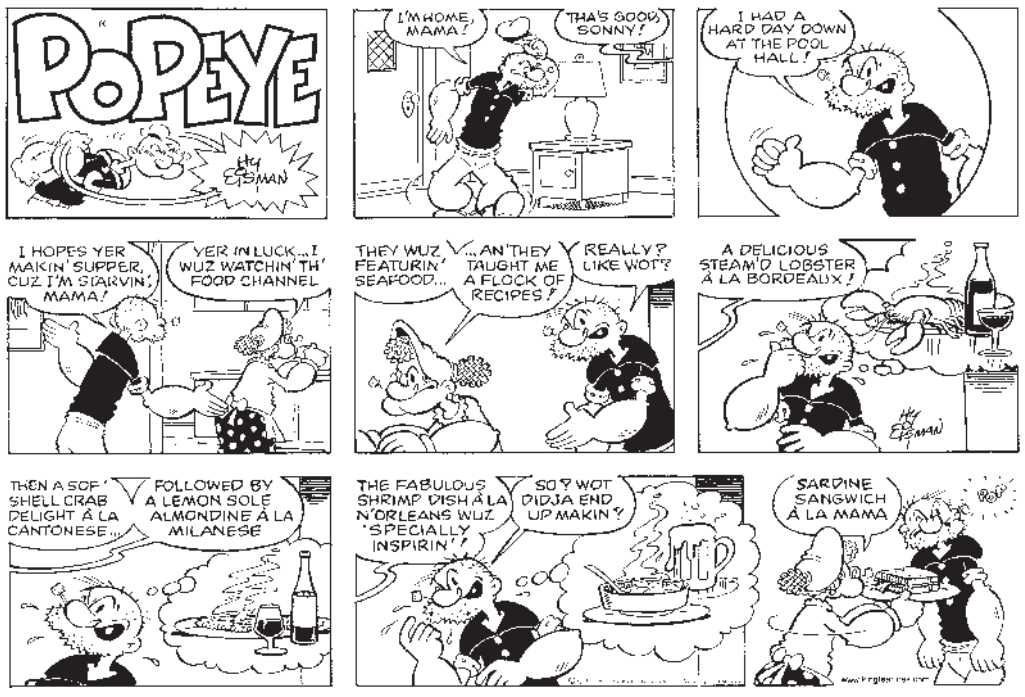
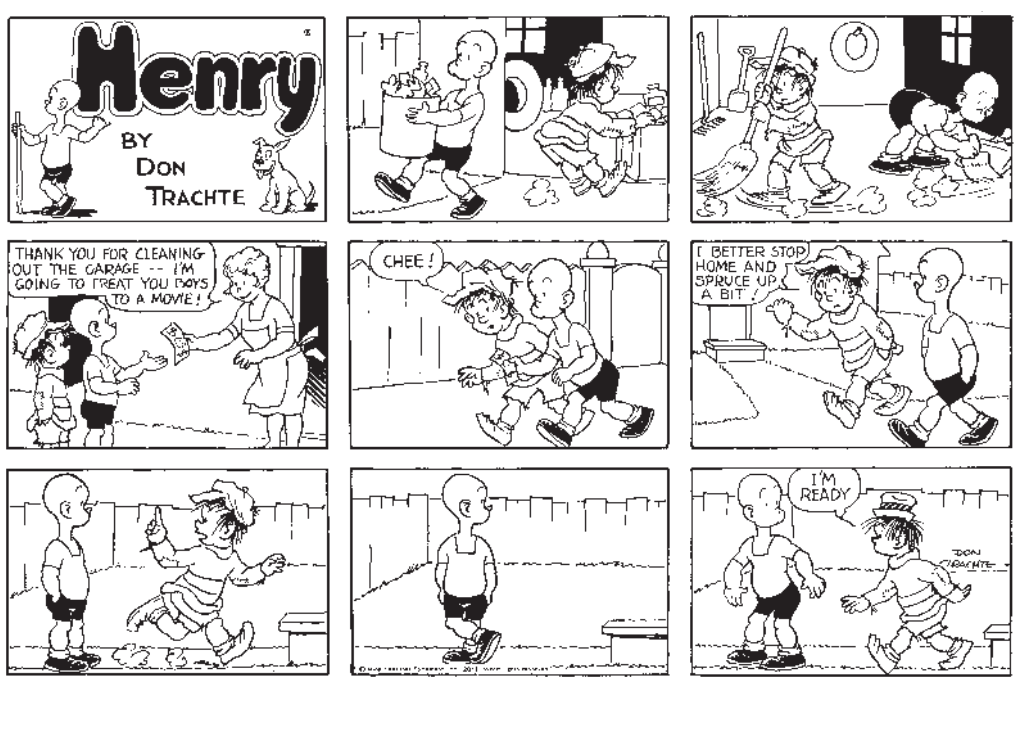

POPEYE
Hy Eisman
I'M HOME, MAMA!
THA'S GOOD, SONNY!
I HAD A HARD DAY DOWN AT THE POOL HALL!
I HOPES YER MAKIN' SUPPER, CUZ I'M STARVIN', MAMA!
YER IN LUCK...I WUZ WATCHIN' TH' FOOD CHANNEL
THEY WUZ FEATURIN' SEAFOOD...
...AN' THEY TAUGHT ME A FLOCK OF RECIPES!
REALLY? LIKE WOT?
A DELICIOUS STEAM'D LOBSTER À LA BORDEAUX!
THEN A SOF' SHELL CRAB DELIGHT À LA CANTONESE...
FOLLOWED BY A LEMON SOLE ALMONDINE À LA MILANESE
THE FABULOUS SHRIMP DISH À LA N'ORLEANS WUZ 'SPECIALLY INSPIRIN'!
SO? WOT DIDJA END UP MAKIN?
SARDINE SANGWICH À LA MAMA

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto

NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME—
GRAMP--TELL US AGAIN ABOUT HOW YOU WALKED SO MANY MILES WHEN YOU WENT TO SCHOOL--- Y'KNOW--IN RAIN--SNOW-- ALL THE WAY UPHILL---
OH, YES--WE'D LOVE TO HEAR IT AGAIN---
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
Thank to PAULA CASSANO, EAST MEADOW, N.Y.
ROARMORE KEEPS WIFE LULULA UP ALL NIGHT WITH LOUD SNORING---THEN WHEN IT COMES MORNING---HE SAYS---
AW-W---YAWN--- I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK ALL NIGHT--
THE URGE TO PUT HIM TO SLEEP, BUT GOOD
AL SCADUTO
Thank to HAL LASH, BOYNTON BEACH, FL.
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
LIVING ON THE EDGE— FIRST DAY OF RETIREMENT--- AND IT STARTS---
HUH? I'M GOING DOWNSTAIRS-- WHY?
HOLD IT---NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK, YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN BED, PUT ALL YOUR THINGS AWAY--- MAKE YOUR OWN BREAK-FAST--AND I HAVE A FEW ERRANDS FOR YOU TO DO---AND--
Thank to DEE & CARL, ROCKVILLE, MD.
ALSCADUTO@ONLINE.NET


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
THANK YOU FOR CLEANING OUT THE GARAGE -- I'M GOING TO TREAT YOU BOYS TO A MOVIE!
CHEE!
I BETTER STOP HOME AND SPRUCE UP A BIT!
I'M READY
DON TRACHTE

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the U.S. Naval Academy located?
2. PERSONALITIES: Who was Fulton John Sheen, famous for his radio and TV broadcasts?
3. LANGUAGE: What is the plural of "quantum"?
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of the city in the long-running soap opera "All My Children"?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Jungle," a book that detailed abuses in the U.S. meat-packing industry?
6. MUSIC: What rock group recorded the song "Layla"?
7. ROYALTY: Which English king convened the so-called Long Parliament in 1640?
8. COMICS: What was the name of Superman's superdog?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the first name of the pirate known as Captain Kidd?
10. HISTORY: What year was Malcolm X assassinated?

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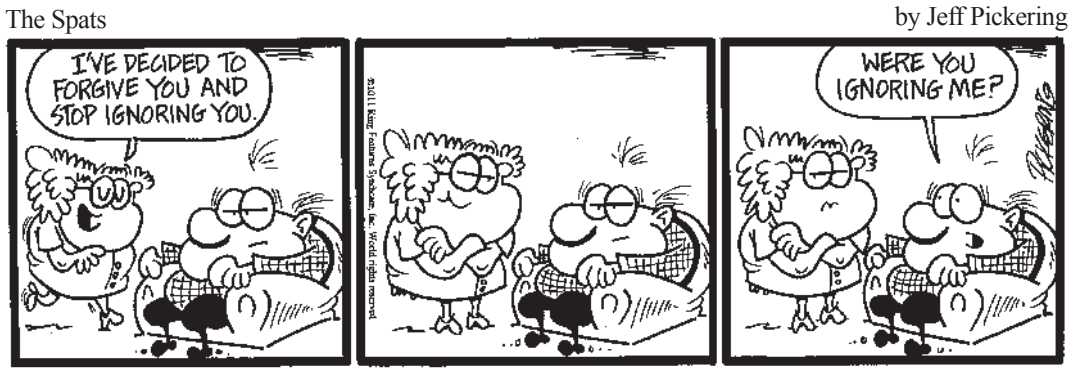
Answers

1. Annapolis, Md.
2. U.S. Catholic archbishop
3. Quanta
4. Pine Valley
5. Upton Sinclair
6. Derek and the Dominoes
7. Charles I
8. Krypto
9. William
10. 1965

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

22 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

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865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza
Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

Felix and Araceli Babauta
P.O. Box 5664 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 322-8264
PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER TO APPOINT GUARDIANSHIP FOR: KENNETH JASPER A. BABAUTA	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0309
Minor Child By	)	**ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING**
FELIX L. BABAUTA and ARACELI A. BABAUTA	)	
Petitioners.	)	

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of the hearing for the Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on 7/28/11 at 10:30a.m.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2011

/s/ Perry B. Inos
Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ALICE B. DELEON GUERRERO, dba A & A APARTMENTS, Plaintiff, -v- **ERIC NGIRABABUL,** Defendant.	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0347** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 19th day of July, 2011:

/s/ Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Nice 2 bedroom Apts in San Roque, Great Price! Only $250/month plus security deposit. Call 483-6985 for more information

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR RENT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc. Commercial space and apartments for rent. Great roadside locations in San Jose, Chalan Kanoa, and Chalan Paio. Call Ben Sablan (Cell 898-9285) or Tony Muna (Cell 888-9290) Tel. No. 234-2585/235-9020

WHATZIT Solution:
In the doghouse

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

K E N N E L

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Turkish team Besiktas in talks with Kobe

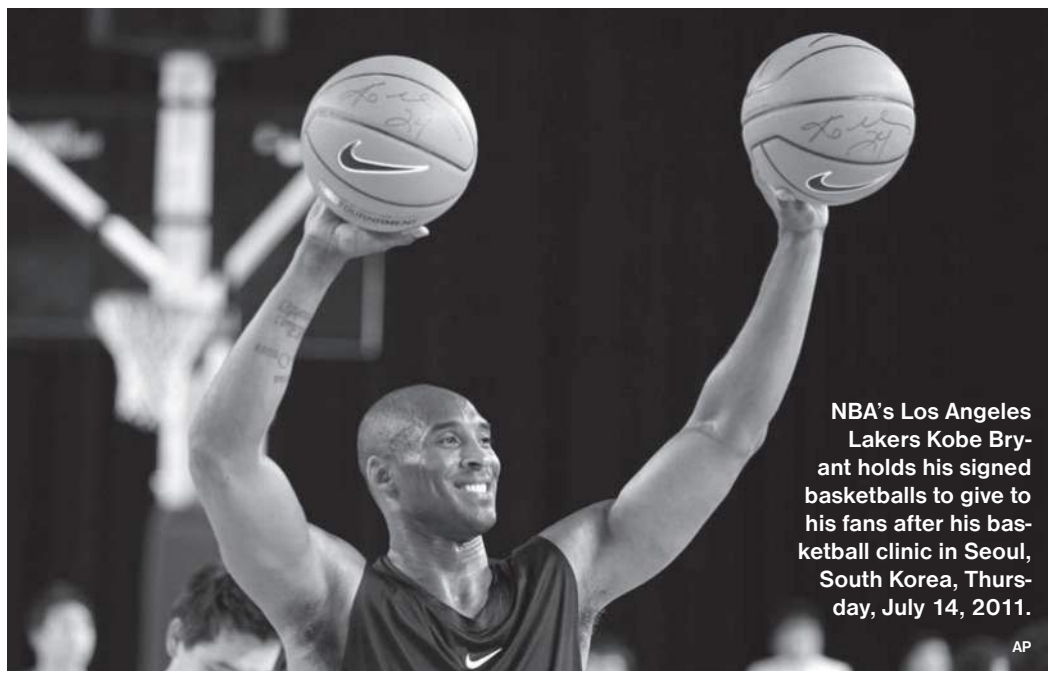
ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish club Besiktas is in talks with Kobe Bryant's representatives about the possibility of the Los Angeles Lakers' star playing in Turkey during the NBA lockout.

"It is a fact that Kobe Bryant's managers have contacted us," coach Ergin Ataman said Thursday, a week after Besiktas signed New Jersey Nets point guard Deron Williams.

Ataman said Bryant was waiting for an offer from Besiktas. The club, however, said it would need a sponsor to be able to pay for Bryant's contract.

"Our board will evaluate that," Ataman said.

Bryant, who has won five NBA titles with the Lakers and is a 13-time NBA All Star, has been on a tour of China, including a stop in Shanghai on Wednesday. He said he would consider playing overseas during the lockout and mentioned China and Turkey as possibilities.



NBA's Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant holds his signed basketballs to give to his fans after his basketball clinic in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 14, 2011. AP

Representatives other NBA players also have contacted Besiktas, Ataman said, without identifying any of them.

The Turkish League season starts in October.

Besiktas signed Allen Iverson, the NBA's MVP in 2001, last year but his time in Turkey was cut short due to injury.

Another NBA player, New Jersey guard Sasha Vujacic, signed last week with Turkish club Anadolu Efes. The 27-year old Slovenian guard agreed to a one-year deal with an optional second year.

Nets draft pick Bojan Bogdanovic also signed with Fenerbahce of the Turkish League in June.

Orlando Magic star Dwight Howard, a five-time All-Star, has said he would consider playing in China or Europe if the NBA lockout doesn't end.

Talks between the NBA and the union broke down June 30, and the owners decided to impose the league's first lockout since the 1998-99 season was shortened to 50 games. Both sides say there are significant differences between their proposals, raising the possibility that all or part of next season could be canceled.

Shields outduels Sabathia, Rays win

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Joe Maddon perused the box score and wondered aloud how the latest stellar pitching performance by James Shields only improved the Tampa Bay All-Star's record to one game over .500.

"How's that possible?" Maddon asked after the 29-year-old right-hander won for the first time in nearly a month, outpitching CC Sabathia and beating the New York Yankees 2-1 on Thursday night. "You see Sabathia is 14-5. That's what Shields' record should

Shields (9-8) allowed six hits, walked three and struck out six over 7 2-3 innings in his second duel with Sabathia in 12 days. He lost 1-0 to the major leagues' wins leader on July 10 at Yankee Stadium, yielding the game's only run on an errant pickoff throw to third base.

Run support for Shields, whose 17 starts of at least seven innings are tied for the most in the major leagues, has been an issue much of this season.

The Rays have scored two runs or less in 10 of his 21 starts. In his nine wins Shields has yielded six earned runs in 76 innings—an ERA of 0.71.

"That was a good battle. It's nice to come out with a win, especially after what happened last time we faced each other in New York," Shields said. "Any time you face CC, you're going to go through a battle. Fortunate for us, we got just enough runs to win the ball game."

Pitching on his 31st birthday, Sabathia (14-5) lost for the first time since June 9, ending a streak of victories in seven consecutive starts. Slumping Evan Longoria homered and finished with two of the five hits off the Yankees ace. Sam Fuld drove in Tampa Bay's second run with a fifth-inning triple.

"When you look at his night, he really only made two mistakes. The curveball to Longoria and the slider to Fuld and that was it," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "Unfortunately we only got one tonight."

The loss dropped New York two games behind first-place Boston in the AL East. The third-place Rays salvaged a split in the four-game series, but only went 4-6 in a critical stretch of 10 straight games against the Red Sox and Yankees and are 5 1/2 games behind New York.

Tigers 6, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Justin Verlander threw eight dominant innings and Jhonny Peralta drove in three runs with three hits as Detroit beat Minnesota for the 10th straight time.

Brennan Boesch hit a two-run homer, and Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, and Peralta—batting fourth, fifth and sixth—were all over Twins starter Carl Pavano (6-7).

Verlander (13-5), who had lost two of his last three starts, gave up five hits and one run without a walk, striking out nine.

The Tigers moved a half-game ahead of idle Cleveland in the division, while the fourth-place Twins fell six games back.

Boesch homered with two outs in the fifth for a 3-0 lead. In the next inning, Cabrera doubled, Martinez singled and Peralta drove in Cabrera with a double. Carlos Guillen added a sacrifice fly for a five-run lead. Pavano allowed nine hits and five runs in six innings.

Joe Mauer played first base for the third straight game. He had two hits and is batting .550 (11 for 20) as a first baseman.

Angels 1, Rangers 0

At Anaheim, Jered Weaver won a riveting duel with fellow All-Star C.J. Wilson, and Los Angeles converted an error by Texas center fielder Endy Chavez into an unearned run.

The Angels moved within three games of the AL West leaders.

Weaver (13-4) scattered seven hits in seven-plus innings and struck out six to win his seventh straight decision and reduce his major league-best ERA to 1.81.

Scott Downs retired three batters in the eighth and All-Star rookie Jordan Walden did the same in the ninth for his 23rd save.

Wilson (10-4) held the Angels to two hits over eight innings, struck out eight and walked one.

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 5

At Toronto, Rajai Davis hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning and the Blue Jays handed Seattle its 12th straight loss.

Miguel Olivo erased a 5-1 deficit by hitting Seattle's first grand slam of the season in the top of the eighth.

Reliever David Pauley (5-4) got two quick outs in the bottom half before Mike McCoy doubled to left and Yunel Escobar walked. Davis followed with a double over the head of Ichiro Suzuki in right, scoring both runners.

The Mariners have not won since beating the Athletics in Oakland on July 5, the majors' longest losing streak of the season.

Jon Rauch (4-3) worked 1 2-3 innings for the victory.

Diamondbacks 4, Brewers 0

At Phoenix, Ian Kennedy gave up four hits over seven innings to earn his 11th victory and Arizona got home runs from Justin Upton, Miguel Montero, and Kelly Johnson to beat Milwaukee 4-0 on Thursday night and split the four-game series.

Kennedy (11-3) struck out five and walked two in his third straight win. He became the eighth pitcher in the NL with at least 11 wins. Jair Jurrjens of Atlanta leads the league with 12.

Zach Greinke (7-4) struck out seven with no walks in seven innings, allowing only five hits, but two of them were solo shots by Upton and Montero in the fourth inning.

Johnson added a two-run homer off LaTroy Hawkins in the eighth, his team-high 17th of the season.

Bryan Shaw and Ian Patterson pitched the eighth for Arizona, then David Hernandez(notes) completed the shutout in the ninth.

Padres 5, Marlins 3

At Miami, Dustin Moseley and three relievers held Florida without an earned run and San Diego completed a series sweep.

Padres second baseman Orlando Hudson collided with the wall after catching a foul popup in the seventh inning and was carted off the field. He was taken to a hospital where X-rays were negative.

A team spokesman said late Thursday night that although Hudson did not fly on the team charter he did join the Padres in Philadelphia and is listed as day to day.

Cameron Maybin had four hits and scored twice for the Padres, who outscored the Marlins 23-6 in the series. Maybin went 9 for 14 in the three games against his former team.

Moseley (3-9) went six innings and allowed three unearned runs. He stayed in the game after a 2 1/2 -hour rain delay in the second inning.

Javier Vazquez (6-9) went only 4 1-3 innings and allowed five runs, the last on a bases-loaded walk.

Braves 9, Rockies 6

At Denver, Jason Heyward and Freddie Freeman each homered and had two hits and Atlanta overcame a shaky start by Tommy Hanson.

Brooks Conrad homered and Nate McLouth had two hits for Atlanta, which earned a split of the four-game series.

Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 30th save.

Carlos Gonzalez homered for the Rockies before leaving in the fifth inning with a right wrist injury after fouling a ball off.

Hanson (11-5) allowed six runs and seven hits and struck out seven in six innings.

Trailing 6-5, the Braves took the lead for good against Matt Reynolds (0-2) in the seventh.

Cardinals 6, Mets 2

At New York, Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in the first and Jake Westbrook threw eight excellent innings as St. Louis avoided a three-game sweep.

Pujols drove a pitch from Jonathon Niese (9-8) off the facade of the second deck in left for his 21st home run.

Westbrook (8-4) worked efficiently (90 pitches) and rapidly, and kept his infielders busy. He recorded 17 outs on groundballs, including two double plays, and allowed four hits and two runs.

'Wasted two years being loyal to Woods'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Steve Williams says he wasted the last two years of his life standing by Tiger Woods through injuries and eruptions in the golfer's private life.

In frank interviews about his dismissal published Friday in his native New Zealand, the 47-year-old caddie said he had lost "a tremendous amount of respect" for the game's biggest star.

Williams told the New Zealand Herald "realistically I could look back, and I've wasted the last two years of my life because he's played infrequently, he's been injured and played poorly."

"I was prepared to hang in there through thick and thin," Williams said, "so I find the timing extraordinary."

Williams said he had no idea he was going to be fired after a dozen years as Woods' caddie until Woods called him to a meeting at the AT&T National tournament two weeks ago.

"Sometimes you get an inkling that something's going to happen … And I basically didn't have much to say with him. I was somewhat in a state of shock, but I just listened to what he thought," Williams told the Herald. "I didn't agree with what he was telling me but at the end of the day that wasn't going to make a difference so I just took it on the chin."

Williams told the newspaper he was not upset at being fired, but at its timing and after his staunch loyalty to Woods' during the upheaval in his private life.

"I understand that's part of the game … To be let go after staying incredibly loyal during the most difficult time in his life and then for him to decide that he needs a change, I think that the timing has been very poor," he said. "When Tiger went through the Tiger scandal, as it's known, I was obviously very disappointed in him, as everyone was. Obviously I lost a tremendous amount of respect for him … and I told him that he had to earn back my respect. Whatever respect he may have earned back, he's just lost."

Williams said he had not spoken to Woods since their working relationship was terminated.

In a separate interview with Television New Zealand, Williams said he felt his loyalty to Woods had not been repaid.

"I'm a very big stickler for loyalty and I stuck with Tiger through his difficult period when a lot of people thought I should have left his side," he said. "That was the most difficult period that I've ever been through in my life. I'm pretty hardheaded and took it probably a lot better than my wife and family did, but there's no way that I should have been put through that."

Schleck shines, Contador slumps in Stage 18

LE MONETIER-LES-BAINS, France (AP)—Andy Schleck has finally gotten the edge against Alberto Contador.

After two second-place Tour de France finishes behind the Spanish champion, Schleck all but quashed Contador's hopes for a three-peat with a bold, long-distance breakaway win in Stage 18 in the Alps on Thursday.

The 26-year-old rider from Luxembourg handled the main pack midway along the second of three huge climbs, with 30 miles left in the 125-mile ride from Pinerolo, Italy, to Galibier Serre-Chevalier in France.

By the finish atop the ski station - the highest-altitude finish in the Tour's 108-year history - Schleck had beaten the favorites by more than two minutes, come 15 seconds within Frenchman Thomas Voeckler's grasp on the yellow jersey, and left Cadel Evans of Australia clinging to his title bid.

But the biggest casualty was Contador, who with an aching right knee from a crash earlier in the three-week race, straggled up to the finish - his hopes of a fourth title in tatters.

"Victory is impossible now," said Contador, who had dropped back to the race doctor for an anti-inflammatory just as Schleck prepared his move. "I had a bad day. My legs didn't respond and I just hit a wall."

The two riders, once friends who vacationed together, had animosity during last year's Tour when some say Contador breached etiquette by speeding ahead when Schleck had a chain malfunction - a move that turned out to make the difference in the outcome.

Schleck wasn't looking at the past skirmishes with Contador after Thursday's ride, instead focusing on his goal of seizing the yellow shirt that he has long coveted but never worn off the French race leader's back.

Schleck began the day in fourth place, 2:36 behind Voeckler. After a first ascent of the Col d'Agnel pass - which some call the toughest single Tour climb this year - Schleck attacked on the next one, Col d'Izoard, and extended his lead up much of the fabled Galibier.

The race contenders, led by Evans, finally reacted once they saw their victory hopes slipping away in Schleck's wake. But it was too late: They could only try to stanch their losses.

He put it together with a combination of bravado, relatively fresh legs, and smart racing under an escort from his Leopard Trek teammates who had fanned out ahead to help their leader along.

It was picture-perfect teamwork, as his comrades one after the other relayed to give Schleck a draft so he could conserve his energy for his mad dash to the finish.

AP

Stage winner Andy Schleck of Luxembourg leads the breakaway group with Nicolas Roche of Ireland, second, Maxim Iglinskiy of Kazakhstan, third, and Egor Silin of Russia, rear, as they climb Lautaret pass during the 18th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 200.5 kilometers (124.6 miles) starting in Pinerolo, Italy, and finishing on Galibier pass, Alps region, France, Thursday, July 21,2011.

"I told the team yesterday that I had this in mind. I wasn't going to be fourth in Paris," Schleck said. "I said I'd risk it all. ... It's my character: I'm not afraid to lose."

Schleck's older brother Frank - the other half of what has billed as a two-pronged fraternal duo - was second, by 2:07 back. Evans and Voeckler were close behind, the Frenchman gritting it out all the way to stay yellow.

"I limited the damage," Voeckler said. "I went all out."

Overall, the elder Schleck is third, 1:08 back, and has insisted that any talk of sibling rivalry is misplaced. Evans trails fourth, 4 seconds slower. The brothers, Evans, and outsider Voeckler have the most realistic shot at victory.

Contador is nearly 5 minutes back in seventh, making victory a very tall order with just one more day in the Alps before Saturday's final time trial in Grenoble.

Andy Schleck came in knowing that he'd need to gain time before then: Time trials aren't his specialty; mountains are. On Friday, the pack scales the other side of Galibier and an uphill finish at the dreaded Alpe d'Huez after a relatively short 68-mile trek from Modane.

On Thursday, he was methodical. After riding behind Leopard Trek teammate Stuart O'Grady, Schleck sped out from the main pack midway up Izoard, with 13 breakaway riders ahead.

Then he caught another teammate, Joost Posthuma, who had been in the breakaway and welcomed Schleck for another escort. After Schleck passed the summit, Maxime Monfort was waiting so that he could ride in his draft on the treacherous downhill - not one of Schleck's strengths.

Then he pedaled hard alone to the finish, succeeding his long-distance gamble.

"That was brilliant," said Bjarne Riis, manager of Contador's Saxo Bank team, who coached the Schlecks last year. "That was brave, very brave, and, ah, crazy - but he made it. That's the beauty of cycling. Hats off."

A key question after Thursday's effort was whether the younger Schleck's resulting fatigue could give an opening to Evans, who many think could be his biggest threat because he excels at time trials.

"I crossed the line and I had gone all out for every second," said Andy Schleck, with his neck bundled in a post-race towel to protect him from the mountaintop cold. "I haven't hurt like this in a long time."

Owners OK deal, players don't vote yet

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. (AP)—The way NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell spoke about club owners' overwhelming approval of a tentative decade-long agreement to end the lockout, he might as well have been yelling, "Are you ready for some football?!"

Not so fast, fans. The deal's not done yet.

Yes, owners voted 31-0 - the Oakland Raiders abstained - on a proposal that would have put the country's most popular sport back in business, provided players re-establish their union and sign off on the deal. And there's the catch: Players didn't vote Thursday, saying they had not seen the full proposal.

"How can we hold a vote on something that we haven't seen the finished product of?" Buffalo Bills player rep George Wilson said in a telephone interview. "Ultimately, the guys felt like this thing is being force-fed to us; that it's being shoved down our throats."

Wilson also sounded a more optimistic note, adding: "I don't think this deal is blown up. We can definitely work through these issues."

Soon after the owners' vote, following nine hours of discussions - and a couple of breaks for food - at an Atlanta-area hotel, the league issued a press release announcing: "NFL clubs approved today the terms of a comprehensive settlement of litigation and a new 10-year collective bargaining agreement with the NFL Players Association."

It didn't take long for NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith to email team reps to say: "Issues that need to be collectively bargained remain open; other issues, such as workers' compensation, economic issues and end of deal terms, remain unresolved. There is no agreement between the NFL and the players at this time."

Shortly thereafter, players held a conference call and decided not to vote.

Goodell and Smith, who was at NFLPA headquarters in Washington, talked on the phone several times Thursday. Both sides also talked Thursday to the court-appointed mediator, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are supposed to remain secret.

Once their vote was completed, Goodell, NFL general counsel Jeff Pash and various owners talked glowingly about the deal - and an anticipated return to the field.

"Hopefully, we can all work quickly, expeditiously, to get this agreement done," Goodell said. "It is time to get back to football. That's what everybody here wants to do."

But several players took to Twitter, expressing opposition to the proposal. Pittsburgh Steelers safety Ryan Clark wrote: "The owners want u to believe that they have been extremely fair everywhere and this is their 'olive branch' to finalize it."

Owners exercised an opt-out clause in the old collective bargaining agreement in 2008, setting the stage for the recent labor impasse. The new deal does not contain an opt-out clause.

The four-month lockout is the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987. And as a result, this season's exhibition opener was canceled Thursday - the Aug. 7 Hall of Fame game between Chicago and St. Louis in Canton, Ohio.

"The time was just too short," Goodell said. "Unfortunately, we're not going to be able to play the game this year."

If players approve the agreement, team facilities would open Saturday, and the new league year would begin Wednesday, with full free agency and opening of training camps.

"I can't say we got everything we wanted to get in the deal," New York Giants owner John Mara said. "I'm sure (players) would say the same thing. ... The best thing about it is our fans don't have to hear about labor-management relations for another 10 years."

The owners' meeting near Atlanta's airport lasted most of the day - including breaks for lunch and dinner. Black limousines that lined up outside at midafternoon wound up waiting and waiting for owners to emerge. More than 100 members of the media packed into the lobby and lined the hallways leading to the conference room where the owners met behind closed doors.

After word of the owners' vote emerged, one fan at the hotel, Dave Gower of Knoxville, Tenn., said: "Finally. I don't understand why it took so long. I hope the players take it and run with it."

The old CBA expired March 11, when federally mediated negotiations fell apart, and the owners locked out the players hours later. Since then, teams have not been allowed to communicate with current NFL players; players - including those drafted in April - could not be signed; and teams did not pay for players' health insurance.

The basic framework for the league's new economic model - including how to split more than $9 billion in annual revenues - was set up during negotiations last week.

"These things, by their very nature, aren't supposed to make you necessarily happy when you walk out the door. It was a negotiation," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I don't mean to sound negative, but it isn't exactly like Christmas has come along here."

Final issues involved how to set aside three pending court cases, including the antitrust lawsuit filed against the NFL in federal court in Minnesota by Tom Brady and nine other players. Pash, the NFL's lead negotiator, said the owners' understanding is that case will be dismissed.

One thing owners originally sought and won't get, at least right away, is expanding the regular season from 16 games to 18. That won't change before 2013, and the players must agree to a switch.

"We heard the players loud and clear. They pushed back pretty hard on that issue," said Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, chairman of the league's competition committee.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	59	37	.615	–
New York	57	39	.594	2
Tampa Bay	52	45	.536	7 1/2
Toronto	50	49	.505	10 1/2
Baltimore	39	56	.411	19 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	52	46	.531	–
Cleveland	51	46	.526	1/2
Chicago	47	51	.480	5
Minnesota	46	52	.469	6
Kansas City	40	58	.408	12

West Division

Texas	56	43	.566	–
Los Angeles	53	46	.535	3
Oakland	43	55	.439	12 1/2
Seattle	43	55	.439	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	61	36	.629	–
Atlanta	58	41	.586	4
New York	49	49	.500	12 1/2
Washington	48	50	.490	13 1/2
Florida	47	52	.475	15

Central Division

Pittsburgh	51	45	.531	–
Milwaukee	53	47	.530	–
St. Louis	51	47	.520	1
Cincinnati	48	50	.490	4
Chicago	39	60	.394	13 1/2
Houston	33	65	.337	19

West Division

San Francisco	57	42	.576	–
Arizona	53	46	.535	4
Colorado	47	52	.475	10
San Diego	44	55	.444	13
Los Angeles	43	55	.439	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Toronto 7, Seattle 5
L.A. Angels 1, Texas 0
Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Yankees 1
Detroit 6, Minnesota 2
San Diego 5, Florida 3
St. Louis 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 9, Colorado 6
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 0

CNMI

From Page 28

remaining four teams will battle in the consolation games. Last year, Korea beat Hong Kong in the finals, 3-2.

After Day 2 of the 2011 tournament, Hong Kong and Chinese-Taipei share the lead with their identical 2-0 records. The host notched its second victory against Guam, 14-1. Korea won over Macau last Thursday, 9-0, to improve to a 1-1 slate. Guam also has a 1-1 mark, as it prevailed over Macau (0-2) last Wednesday, 1-0.

NETTERS

From Page 28

The CNMI netters will lead the North Pacific Team, which will be gunning for back-to-back championships against the West and East squads. Also on the North squad are Guam's Edward Chung, Camdyn Nadler Emil Penafiel, and Gabrielle Tan, Palau's Ayana Rengiil and Abigail Gbwenyo, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Jenna Panuelo and T.J. Rush.

The West Pacific Team was the first one to hold the POJC qualifying tournament with Fiji getting 11 regular slots and notching two wild card berths. The Solomon Islands had the second most qualifiers on the West team with seven. Papua New Guinea has six players on the squad and Vanuatu has two.

The East completed its own qualifier last week with the Cook Islands having the most player on the squad with seven and Tahiti, American Samoa, and Samoa listing four each. Tonga has two players on the East squad.

Players in the East, West, and North squads will earn points based on how they will finish in the singles competition and these will be added to determine the winning squad. Last year, the North earned 131 points against the West's 128 to end the latter's nine-year reign in the POJC. The East squad collected 77 markers to drop from second to third.

Korean Futsal Team takes early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Korean Futsal Team claimed the solo lead in the men's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League after demolishing Go Green, 10-1, Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Two quick goals from Dae Min Jeon was all Korean Futsal Team needed to dictate the tempo of the game and pulled away with an easy win, the squad's second in as many games. Go Green dropped to a 1-1-0 (win-loss-draw) card, failing to make a follow-up on its 7-0 debut win over the Thundercats last Tuesday.

After scoring two early goals at the start of the 25-minute first half, Dae Min Jeon added two more to give Korean Futsal Team a 6-0 halftime lead. Jeong Jin Jeon nailed Korean Futsal Team's two other goals in the opening frame.

In the second half, three other Korean Futsal Team players made it to the scoreboard, while Dae Min Jeon added one. Sang Ho Choi, Jin Wook Cho, and Dae Won Jeon tallied one goal each in the second half.

Go Green's long goal in the game was courtesy of Jimmy Tang, who found the back of the net in the second half.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Korean Futsal Team, left, and Go Green players battle for the ball during their game in the men's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Docomo 7, Red Inter 7

In the other men's division game, Docomo and Red Inter engaged in a draw, 7-7-.

Arkie Reusora canned two goals for Red Inter in the first half, while Erwin Cruz and Dael Roberts had one each to lift the team to a 4-3 halftime lead. Trey Dunn, Ropati Tonuu, and David Loan scored one goal apiece for Docomo.

After a slow start, Ropati came out smoking for Docomo in the second half, as he drilled a hat-trick to force a draw. Docomo's other goal in the second half was an own goal. Roberts and Reusora added one goal each for Red Inter in the second half, while David Duenas also made it to the scoreboard in that canto.

With the draw, Docomo and Red Inter shares identical 0-1-1 win-loss-draw marks.

IT&E Men (1-0), Wild Bill's (1-0), and Mellow Yellow (0-1) complete the men's field.

WOMEN'S
Shirley's B 5, Kulet's Team 3

In the second women's match, Shirley's B edged Kulet's Team, 5-3.

The victory was second in a row for Shirley's B, giving the team the solo lead in the eight-squad field. Shirley's B whipped IT&E Blossom in its debut match Tuesday night, 12-0.

Alexa Vergara and Ira Palero had two goals each, while Marielle Gariguez scored one. The trio found the back of the net in the first half for a 3-1 lead. Kulet Team's lone goal in the first half came from Windy Orcine.

In the second half, Kulet's Team recorded two goals, but Shirley's B answered with two goals of its own to preserve the lead and the win. Goldie Aque and Ericka Dela Rosa nailed one goal each for Kulet's Team, while Vergara and Palero lit up the scoreboard for Shirley's B in the second half.

IT&E Awesome 5, Thai Team

In the first women's match, IT&E Awesome broke into the win column after downing Thai Team, 5-2.

Nola Hix had a hat-trick for IT&E Awesome, which dropped its debut game against Mellow Yellow during the league's opening last Monday. Natalie Hill gave IT&E Awesome its two other goals, posting both of them in the first half. Hix also had two goals in the first half that ended with IT&E Awesome on top, 4-1.

Pratoom Stoffer put Thai Team in the scoreboard in the first half and also made the squad's goal in the second half.

Meanwhile, action in the double-round robin league will resume on Monday with organizers scheduling two games each in the men's and women's divisions.

OCAMPO

From Page 28

Rai Basketball Court.

GPPC led from start to finish and pulled away in the third quarter before Lyn's BBQ made a comeback in the fourth canto and still fell short.

Ocampo fired 10 early points for GPPC's 17-14 lead in the opening canto and after being held to only two field goals in the second period, the shooting forward scored eight more markers in the third. After three quarters, GPPC's advantaged ballooned to 16, 56-40, as Ocampo drew help from Boboy Sumpang, who made eight of his 12 points in that quarter.

Randy Mungcal also helped GPPC's cause, contributing 20 markers in the win.

Pacific Postal 48, Aldrin 45

In the other game on Thursday night, Pacific Postal slipped past Aldin, 48-45.

Pacific Postal got double figures from three players to win the low-scoring game. Angel Bautista and Joboy Angeles had 11 apiece, while Jesse Aque chipped in 10.

Donnel Isip paced Aldrin with 12 markers, while Nelson Manangan added 10.

MBI 67, Wings Travel 66

In the first game on Wednesday night, Micronesian Brokers, Inc. escaped with a 67-66 triumph over Wings Travel.

MBI won the game from the foul line, making four free throws in the homestretch, three of them coming from Noel David.

David finished with a team-high 20 points, while Nate Mateo led all-scorers, tallying 23 for Wings Travel

Joeten Superstores 70, Life Force 58

In the second game, Joeten Superstores held Life Force to only four field goals in the first quarter for a 12-point win, 70-58.

With only Jessie Ordonez scoring more than one field goal for Life Force in the opening canto, Joeten Superstores surged ahead, 24-9,

Joeten Superstores never looked back from thereon. Rodney Sacramento top-scored for the winning team with his 18 points.

WEDNESDAY
First Game

MBI 67 – David 20, Trajano 13, Achas 10, Garcia 9, Delarama 9, Cabrera 4, Moscoco 2.

Wings Travel 66 – Mateo 23, Morales 15, Yalung 9, M. Cruz 9, Verano 6, C. Cruz 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 34-30, 53-50, 67-66.

Second Game

Joeten Superstores 70 – Sacramento 18, Devero 12, Alfonso 9, Sablan 7, Casabuena 7, Fernandez 6, Camacho 2, Culala 2, Tankoy 1.

Life Force 59 – Ordonez 18, Ibanez 8, Santiago 7, Sablan 6, Leomo 5, E. Cabaddu 4, Galvan 4, Ganaden 3, G. Cabaddu 2, Juguilon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 38-17, 46-33, 70-58.

THURSDAY
First Game

GPPC 73 – Ocampo 28, Mungcal 20, Sampang 12, Averas 3, Jalandoni 2, Rivera 2, Timbal 2, Alegre 2.

Lyn's BBQ 66 – Manalo 15, Tenorio 15, Llagas 12, Vergara 10, Lazona 5, Omnes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 36-28, 56-40, 73-66.

Second Game

Pacific Postal 48 – Agbanlog 11, Bautista 11, Aque 10, Lansangan 6, Brien 2, Anicete 2.

Aldrin 45 – Isip 12, Manangan 10, Jugos 6, Griffin 7, Bernardo 2, Mejia 2, Ciano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-9, 24-20, 36-33, 48-45.

ROLLERS

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raiser, followed at 5:30pm by the game between Blue Haus and Hoopaholics. Then at 6:30pm, Rollers U16 B takes on Satbahi, while Happiness squares off with Rollers U18 at 7:30pm.

Games in the RBC tournament are played every Saturdays hourly from 4:30pm to 8:30pm and from 5pm to 9pm on Mondays. The competition concludes on Aug.10.

The first game on Monday night was neck and neck in the first half, as teams were knotted at 24's at the halfway point.

Daryl Suarez led Rollers U16 B with nine markers, while Madness' Zack Babauta and Paul Camacho tallied seven points apiece in the opening frame.

Then Madness nailed four three-pointers in the second half to help secure the victory.

Babauta buried three of the four triples in the second half to finish with 21 points and led all scorers, while Suarez was contained to only a bucket in the clutch and turned in a team-high 11.

In the second match, Happiness and Hoopaholics played a slow-tempo game as they worked on their defense and half court strategies.

Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan paced his squad with five points, as the Hoops came out with a slim 15-14 lead at the half.

Then Happiness' Joe Ada came off the bench in the second frame with seven markers and helped turn the table on the Hoops. Ada's teammates Brandon Aulerio and Patrick Torres carried the torch with eight points apiece in the game, while Hoops' Manibusan delivered 11 on the short end.

In related news, RBC is holding a series of fundraisers for its Guam trip later this year. These include a car wash on Aug. 12 and Sept. 23; "Smoke Meets" on Aug. 26 and Sept. 9; RBC's Family Fun Day on October 14; RBC's Mix Pageant on Oct. 29; and RBC U16 and U18 Basketball Tournament from Nov. 4 to 6 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Proceeds from the fundraisers will be used to help send RBC's U12, U14 A and B, U16 A and B, U18 and U25 divisions teams in the 7th Annual Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest Youth Basketball Tournament in Guam from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7

First Game

Madness 57 – Babauta 21, J. Norita 13, Camacho 10, Litulumar 6, Mizer 4, P. Norita 3

RBC U16 B 42 – Suarez 11, Cenir 8, Espinosa 6, Nakayama 6, Rios 5, Malonzo 4, Accoplado 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-24, 57-42.

Second Game

Happiness 40 – Aulerio 8, Torres 8, Ada 7, Brennan 6, Sablan 5, Aughenbaugh 2, Lizama 2, Namelo 2.

Hoopaholics 33– Manibusan 11, Ruluked 8, Lee 6, Fitial 4, Diaz 2, Villagomez 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-15, 40-33.

Turkish team Besiktas in talks with Kobe

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Schleck shines, Contador slumps in Stage 18

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CNMI strikers search for elusive goal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After two games in the ongoing 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taiwan, the CNMI U15 National Team has yet make it to the scoreboard of the annual competition.

The Commonwealth youth strikers played their first game in the EAFF tournament Wednesday night at the 20,000-seater Taipei Municipal Stadium, and bowed to host Chinese-Taipei, 0-18. Then on Thursday, the visitors played better defense, but still lost to Hong Kong, 0-15, leaving the CNMI still scoreless in the youth tournament. Last year when Guam hosted the same event, the Commonwealth bets failed to make a single goal.

Despite the twin losses, CNMI coaches and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials were happy with the strikers' performance, especially in the game against last year's runner-up Hong Kong.

In the Thursday night match at the YingFung Riverside Sports Park, team official Carrie Schuler, in an email to *Saipan Tribune,* said the CNMI changed its defensive formation, using five defenders, four midfielders, and one striker.

Hong Kong, which came from a 1-0 upset win over defending champion Korea, scored seven goals in the first half and could have pulled away further if not for the CNMI's much-improved defense.

CONGRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI U15 players in action during the first half of their game against Hong Kong in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament last Thursday at the YingFung Riverside Sports Park in Taipei, Taiwan.

On offense, the CNMI was also aggressive and had several scoring opportunities, according to Schuler.

"A string of passes in the first half led Jireh Yobech up the right flank, allowing him to shoot for a goal, but his shot was blocked by Hong Kong's goalkeeper. Dakota Hall hit a corner kick, which ricocheted back and then Kenneth Domingo followed it up with a shot over the crossbar. Hall wound up for another corner kick from the right side in the second half and hit the near post. Also, as the lone striker in part of the second half, Joel Fruit shot from outside the 18-yard box, but missed on the left side of the goal," Schuler said.

After two botched chances, the CNMI was gunning for the elusive goal last night against Korea at the BaiLing Riverside Sports Park. The Commonwealth absorbed a 0-23 beating at the hands of Korea in last year's U15 tournament.

The Jershwin Angeles-coached CNMI U15 National Team will close out its round-robin elimination assignments this weekend when in faces Guam today at the YingFung Riverside Sports Park Field B and Macau tomorrow at the Taipei Municipal Stadium.

After the round-robin elimination, the Top 2 teams will square off for the championships on Monday, while the

See CNMI on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GPPC's Alex Ocampo, left, seen here keeping the ball away from his defender, scored 28 points in their 73-66 win over Lyn's BBQ in the Blue Haus caging Thursday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ocampo lifts GPPC to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Alex Ocampo scored 28 points to power GPPC to a 73-66 victory over Lyn's BBQ during the curtain-raiser in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League Thursday night at the Gualo

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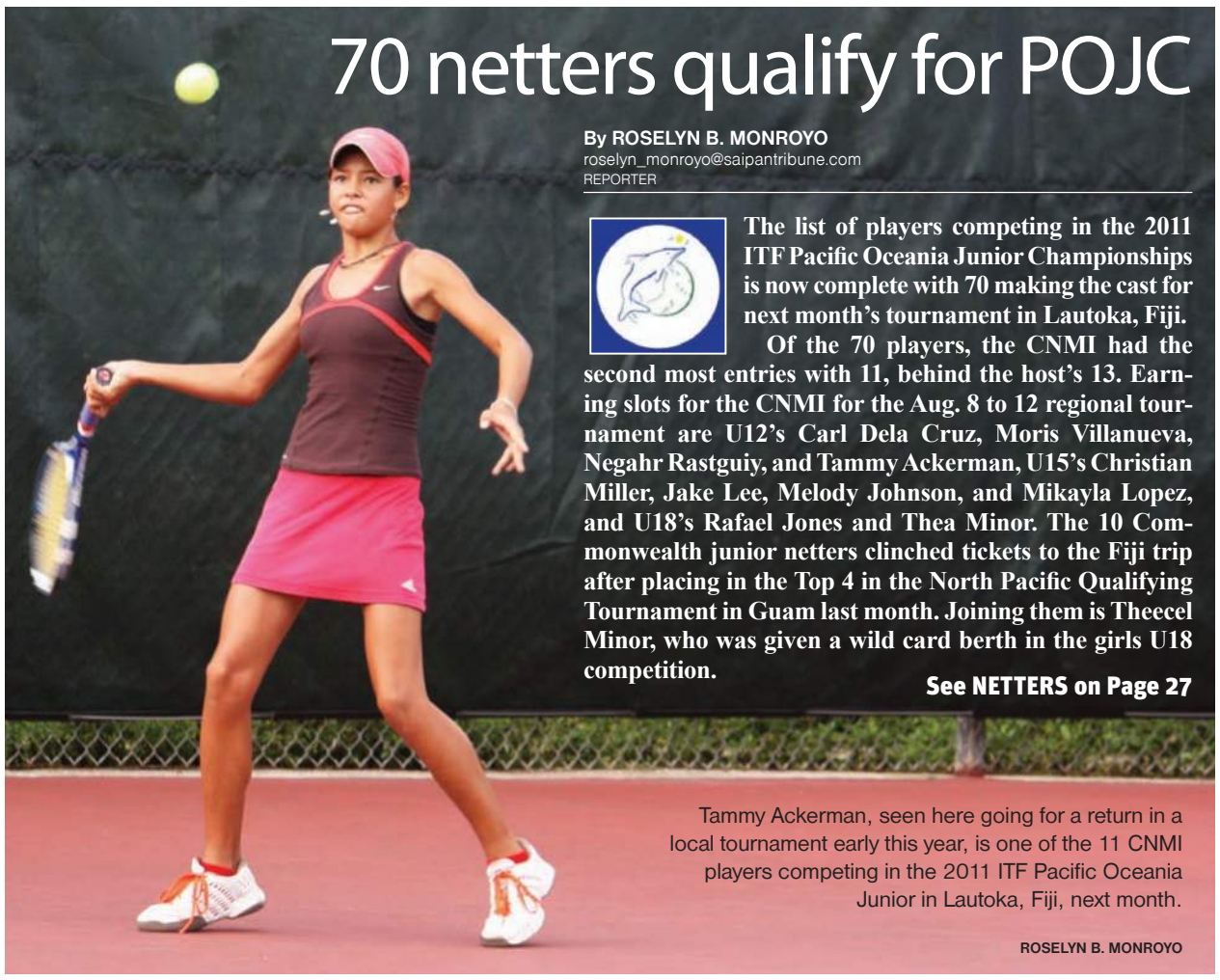

70 netters qualify for POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The list of players competing in the 2011 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships is now complete with 70 making the cast for next month's tournament in Lautoka, Fiji.

Of the 70 players, the CNMI had the second most entries with 11, behind the host's 13. Earning slots for the CNMI for the Aug. 8 to 12 regional tournament are U12's Carl Dela Cruz, Moris Villanueva, Negahr Rastguiy, and Tammy Ackerman, U15's Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Melody Johnson, and Mikayla Lopez, and U18's Rafael Jones and Thea Minor. The 10 Commonwealth junior netters clinched tickets to the Fiji trip after placing in the Top 4 in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam last month. Joining them is Theecel Minor, who was given a wild card berth in the girls U18 competition.

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Tammy Ackerman, seen here going for a return in a local tournament early this year, is one of the 11 CNMI players competing in the 2011 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior in Lautoka, Fiji, next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Fotten Gaga player loses his grip on the ball during a Rollers Basketball Club exhibition match against Konflikt at the Garapan Basketball Court, which is also the venue for the RBC-Hoopaholics Family Fun Fest Basketball Tournament.

Rollers Madness, Happiness win

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rollers Basketball Club's Rollers Madness topped the Rollers U16 B, 57-42, as the RBC-Hoopaholics Family Fun Fest Basketball Tournament continued at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In other results, Rollers Happiness bested Hoopaholics, 40-33, in the second game of the night, while Rollers U18 and U16A teams were awarded victories over Satbahi and Blue Haus, respectively, via forfeitures.

The Family Fun Fest tournament continues today at the Garapan Basketball Court with Rollers U14 A taking on Rollers U14 B in the 4:30pm curtain

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